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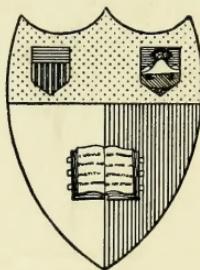
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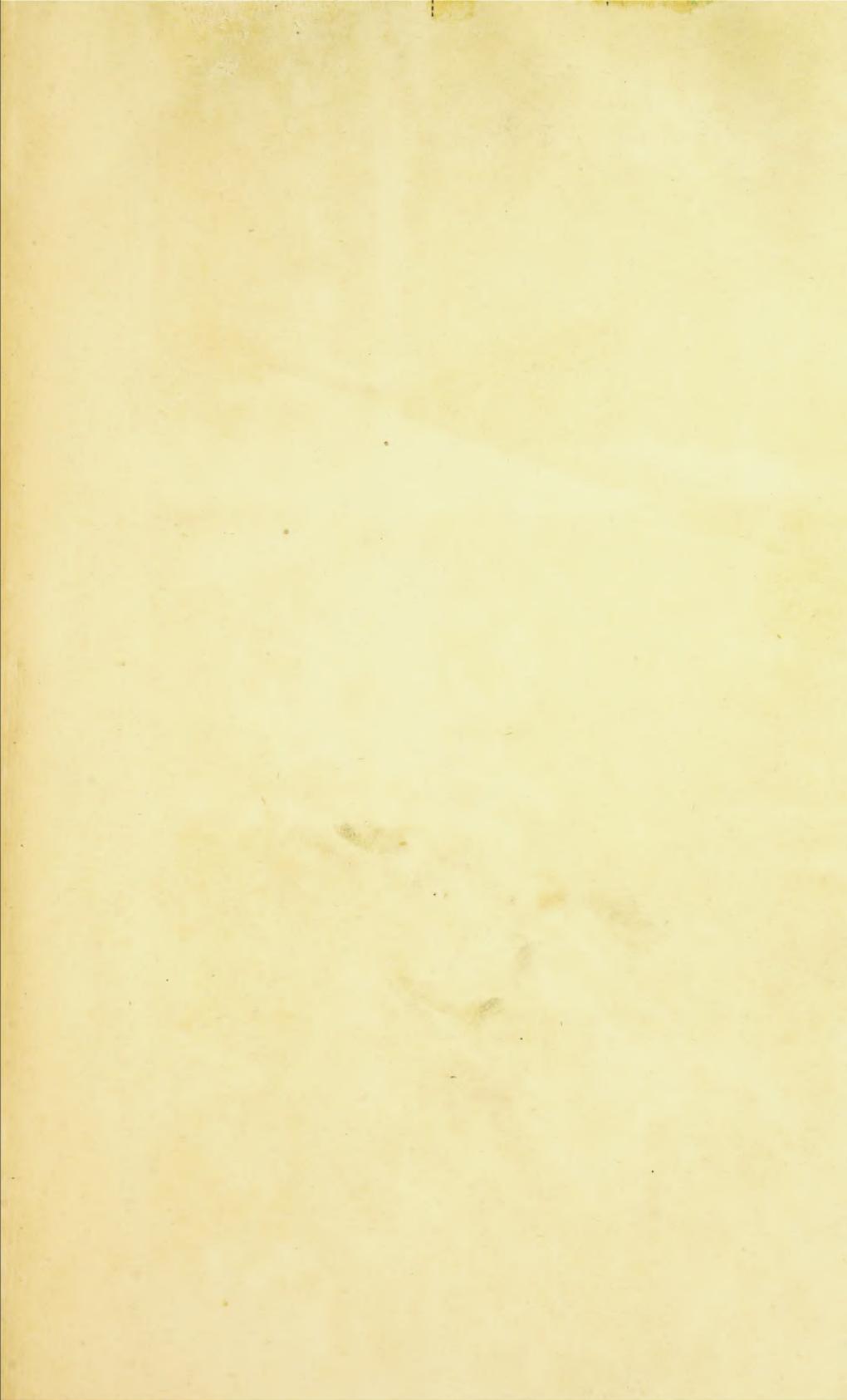
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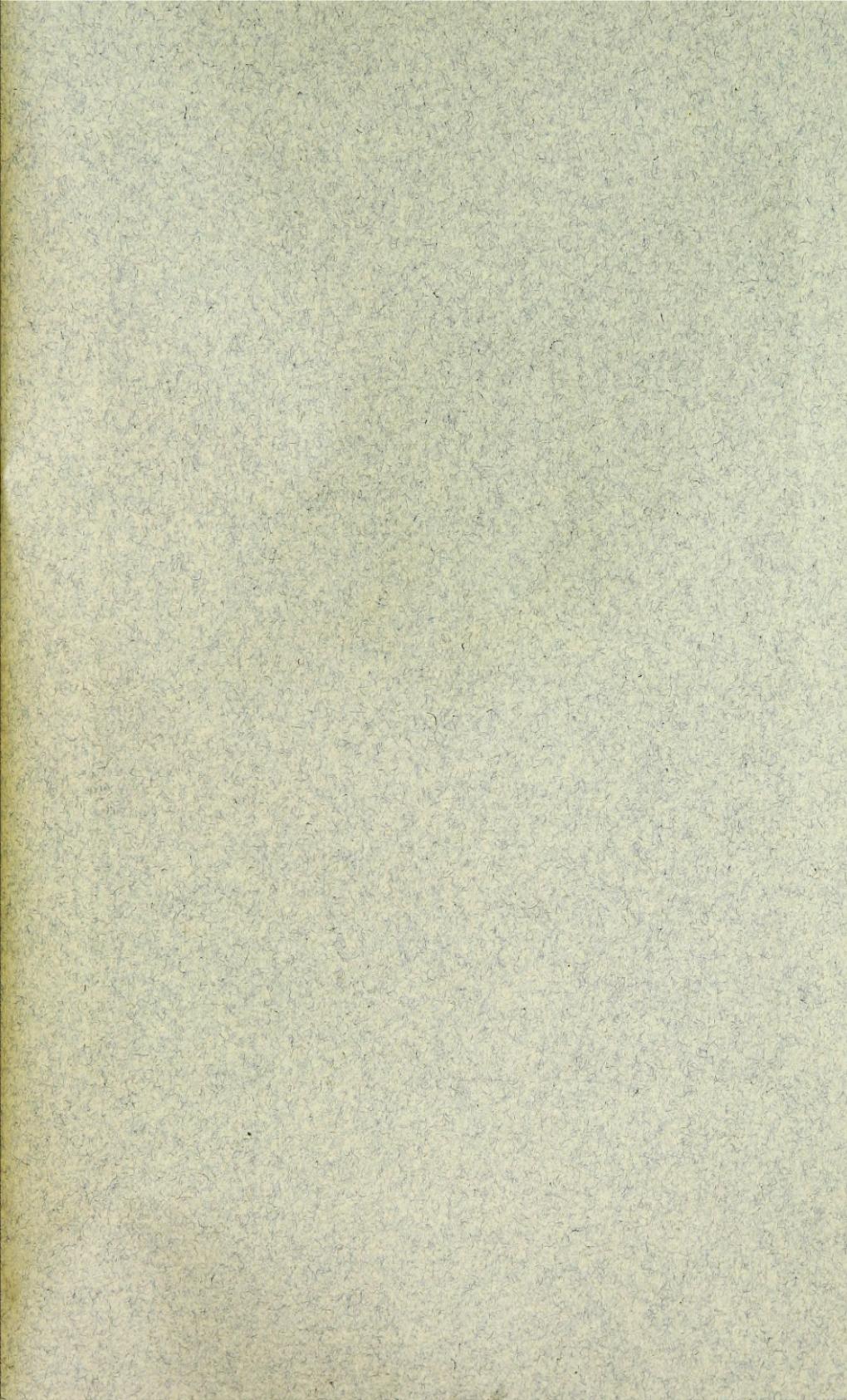
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THE GIFT OF  
VICTOR EMANUEL  
CLASS OF 1919

1925









S. T. Coleridge

Mr Coleridge read Lays from the Alhambra and 1820

Emery Walker Ltd. 1920

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

From a drawing by C. R. Leslie R.A.

THE  
COMPLETE POETICAL WORKS  
OF  
SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

INCLUDING

POEMS AND VERSIONS OF POEMS NOW  
PUBLISHED FOR THE FIRST TIME

EDITED

WITH TEXTUAL AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

BY

ERNEST HARTLEY COLERIDGE  
M.A., HON. F.R.S.L.

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. I: POEMS



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## PREFACE

THE aim and purport of this edition of the *Poetical Works* of Samuel Taylor Coleridge is to provide the general reader with an authoritative list of the poems and dramas hitherto published, and at the same time to furnish the student with an exhaustive summary of various readings derived from published and unpublished sources, viz. (1) the successive editions issued by the author, (2) holograph MSS., or (3) contemporary transcriptions. Occasion has been taken to include in the Text and Appendices a considerable number of poems, fragments, metrical experiments and first drafts of poems now published for the first time from MSS. in the British Museum, from Coleridge's Notebooks, and from MSS. in the possession of private collectors.

The text of the poems and dramas follows that of the last edition of the *Poetical Works* published in the author's lifetime—the three-volume edition issued by Pickering in the spring and summer of 1834.

I have adopted the text of 1834 in preference to that of 1829, which was selected by James Dykes Campbell for his monumental edition of 1893. I should have deferred to his authority but for the existence of conclusive proof that, here and there, Coleridge altered and emended the text of 1829, with a view to the forthcoming edition of 1834. In the Preface to the 'new edition' of 1852, the editors maintain that the three-volume edition of 1828 (a mistake for 1829) was the last upon which Coleridge was 'able to bestow personal care and attention', while that of 1834 was 'arranged mainly if not entirely at the discretion of his latest editor, H. N. Coleridge'. This, no doubt, was perfectly true with regard to the choice and arrangement of the poems, and the labour of seeing the three volumes through the press; but the fact remains that the text of 1829 differs from that of 1834, and that Coleridge himself, and not his 'latest editor', was responsible for that difference.

I have in my possession the proof of the first page of the 'Destiny of Nations' as it appeared in 1828 and 1829. Line 5 ran thus: 'The Will, the Word, the Breath, the

Living God.' This line is erased and line 5 of 1834 substituted: 'To the Will Absolute, the One, the Good' and line 6, 'The I AM, the Word, the Life, the Living God,' is added, and, in 1834, appeared for the first time. Moreover, in the 'Songs of the Pixies', lines 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, as printed in 1834, differ from the readings of 1829 and all previous editions. Again, in 'Christabel' lines 6, 7 as printed in 1834 differ from the versions of 1828, 1829, and revert to the original reading of the MSS. and the First Edition. It is inconceivable that in Coleridge's lifetime and while his pen was still busy, his nephew should have meddled with, or remodelled, the master's handiwork.

The poems have been printed, as far as possible, in chronological order, but when no MS. is extant, or when the MS. authority is a first draft embodied in a notebook, the exact date can only be arrived at by a balance of probabilities. The present edition includes all poems and fragments published for the first time in 1893. Many of these were excerpts from the Notebooks, collected, transcribed, and dated by myself. Some of the fragments (*vide post*, p. 996, n. 1) I have since discovered are not original compositions, but were selected passages from elder poets—amongst them Cartwright's lines, entitled 'The Second Birth', which are printed on p. 362 of the text; but for their insertion in the edition of 1893, for a few misreadings of the MSS., and for their approximate date, I was mainly responsible.

In preparing the textual and bibliographical notes which are now printed as footnotes to the poems I was constantly indebted for information and suggestions to the Notes to the Poems (pp. 561–654) in the edition of 1893. I have taken nothing for granted, but I have followed, for the most part, where Dykes Campbell led, and if I differ from his conclusions or have been able to supply fresh information, it is because fresh information based on fresh material was at my disposal.

No apology is needed for publishing a collation of the text of Coleridge's Poems with that of earlier editions or with the MSS. of first drafts and alternative versions. The first to attempt anything of the kind was Richard Herne Shepherd, the learned and accurate editor of the *Poetical Works* in four volumes, issued by Basil Montagu Pickering in 1877. Important variants are recorded by Mr. Campbell in his Notes to the edition of 1893;

and in a posthumous volume, edited by Mr. Hale White in 1899 (*Coleridge's Poems, &c.*), the corrected parts of 'Religious Musings', the MSS. of 'Lewti', the 'Introduction to the Dark Ladié', and other poems are reproduced in facsimile. Few poets have altered the text of their poems so often, and so often for the better, as Coleridge. He has been blamed for 'writing so little', for deserting poetry for metaphysics and theology ; he has been upbraided for winning only to lose the 'prize of his high calling'. Sir Walter Scott, one of his kindlier censors, rebukes him for 'the caprice and indolence with which he has thrown from him, as if in mere wantonness, those unfinished scraps of poetry, which like the Torso of antiquity defy the skill of his poetical brethren to complete them'. But whatever may be said for or against Coleridge as an 'inventor of harmonies', neither the fineness of his self-criticism nor the laborious diligence which he expended on perfecting his inventions can be gainsaid. His erasures and emendations are not only a lesson in the art of poetry, not only a record of poetical growth and development, but they discover and reveal the hidden springs, the thoughts and passions of the artificer.

But if this be true of a stanza, a line, a word here or there, inserted as an afterthought, is there use or sense in printing a number of trifling or, apparently, accidental variants? Might not a choice have been made, and the jots and tittles ignored or suppressed?

My plea is that it is difficult if not impossible to draw a line above which a variant is important and below which it is negligible ; that, to use a word of the poet's own coining, his emendations are rarely if ever 'lightheartednesses' ; and that if a collation of the printed text with MSS. is worth studying at all the one must be as decipherable as the other. Facsimiles are rare and costly productions, and an exhaustive table of variants is the nearest approach to a substitute. Many, I know, are the shortcomings, too many, I fear, are the errors in the footnotes to this volume, but now, for the first time, the MSS. of Coleridge's poems which are known to be extant are in a manner reproduced and made available for study and research.

Six poems of some length are now printed and included in the text of the poems for the first time.

The first, 'Easter Holidays' (p. 1), is unquestionably a 'School-boy Poem', and was written some months before the

author had completed his fifteenth year. It tends to throw doubt on the alleged date of 'Time, Real and Imaginary'.

The second, 'An Inscription for a Seat,' &c. (p. 349), was first published in the *Morning Post*, on October 21, 1800, Coleridge's twenty-eighth birthday. It remains an open question whether it was written by Coleridge or by Wordsworth. Both were contributors to the *Morning Post*. Both wrote 'Inscriptions'. Both had a hand in making the 'seat'. Neither claimed or republished the poem. It favours or, rather, parodies the style and sentiments now of one and now of the other.

The third, 'The Rash Conjurer' (p. 399), must have been read by H. N. Coleridge, who included the last seven lines, the 'Epilogue', in the first volume of *Literary Remains*, published in 1836. I presume that, even as a fantasia, the subject was regarded as too extravagant, and, it may be, too coarsely worded for publication. It was no doubt in the first instance a 'metrical experiment', but it is to be interpreted allegorically. The 'Rash Conjurer', the *âme damnée*, is the adept in the black magic of metaphysics. But for that he might have been like his brothers, a 'Devonshire Christian'.

The fourth, 'The Madman and the Lethargist' (p. 414), is an expansion of an epigram in the Greek Anthology. It is possible that it was written in Germany in 1799, and is contemporary with the epigrams published in the *Morning Post* in 1802, for the Greek original is quoted by Lessing in a critical excursus on the nature of an epigram.

The fifth, 'Faith, Hope, and Charity' (p. 427), was translated from the Italian of Guarini at Calne, in 1815.

Of the sixth, 'The Delinquent Travellers' (p. 443), I know nothing save that the MS., a first copy, is in Coleridge's handwriting. It was probably written for and may have been published in a newspaper or periodical. It was certainly written at Highgate.

Of the epigrams and *jeux d'esprit* eight are now published for the first time, and of the fragments from various sources twenty-seven have been added to those published in 1893.

Of the first drafts and alternative versions of well-known poems thirteen are now printed for the first time. Two versions of 'The Eolian Harp', preserved in the Library of Rugby School, and the dramatic fragment entitled 'The Triumph of Loyalty', are of especial interest and importance.

An exact reproduction of the text of the ‘Ancyent Marinere’ as printed in an early copy of the *Lyrical Ballads* of 1798 which belonged to S. T. Coleridge, and a collation of the text of the ‘Introduction to the Tale of the Dark Ladié’, as published in the *Morning Post*, Dec. 21, 1799, with two MSS. preserved in the British Museum, are included in Appendix No. I.

The text of the ‘Allegoric Vision’ has been collated with the original MS. and with the texts of 1817 and 1829.

A section has been devoted to ‘Metrical Experiments’; eleven out of thirteen are now published for the first time. A few critical notes by Professor Saintsbury are, with his kind permission, appended to the text.

Numerous poems and fragments of poems first saw the light in 1893; and now again, in 1912, a second batch of newly-discovered, forgotten, or purposely omitted MSS. has been collected for publication. It may reasonably be asked if the tale is told, or if any MSS. have been retained for publication at a future date. I cannot answer for fresh discoveries of poems already published in newspapers and periodicals, or of MSS. in private collections, but I can vouch for a final issue of all poems and fragments of poems included in the collection of Notebooks and unassorted MSS. which belonged to Coleridge at his death and were bequeathed by him to his literary executor, Joseph Henry Green. Nothing remains which if published in days to come could leave the present issue incomplete.

A bibliography of the successive editions of poems and dramas published by Coleridge himself and of the principal collected and selected editions which have been published since 1834 follows the Appendices to this volume. The actual record is long and intricate, but the history of the gradual accretions may be summed up in a few sentences. ‘The Fall of Robespierre’ was published in 1795. A first edition, entitled ‘Poems on Various Subjects’, was published in 1796. Second and third editions, with additions and subtractions, followed in 1797 and 1803. Two poems, ‘The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere’ and ‘The Nightingale, a Conversation Poem’, and two extracts from an unpublished drama (‘Osorio’) were included in the *Lyrical Ballads* of 1798. A quarto pamphlet containing three poems, ‘Fears in Solitude,’ ‘France: An Ode,’ ‘Frost at Midnight,’ was issued in the same year. ‘Love’ was first published in the second edition of the *Lyrical Ballads*, 1800. ‘The Three Graves,’ ‘A

Hymn before Sunrise, &c.,' and 'Idoloclastes Satyrane', were included in the *Friend* (Sept.–Nov., 1809). 'Christabel,' 'Kubla Khan,' and 'The Pains of Sleep' were published by themselves in 1816. *Sibylline Leaves*, which appeared in 1817 and was described as 'A Collection of Poems', included the contents of the editions of 1797 and 1803, the poems published in the *Lyrical Ballads* of 1798, 1800, and the quarto pamphlet of 1798, but excluded the contents of the first edition (except the 'Eolian Harp'), 'Christabel', 'Kubla Khan', and 'The Pains of Sleep'. The first collected edition of the *Poetical Works* (which included a selection of the poems published in the three first editions, a reissue of *Sibylline Leaves*, the 'Wanderings of Cain', a few poems recently contributed to periodicals, and the following dramas—the translation of Schiller's 'Piccolomini', published in 1800, 'Remorse'—a revised version of 'Osorio'—published in 1813, and 'Zapolya', published in 1817) was issued in three volumes in 1828. A second collected edition in three volumes, a reissue of 1828, with an amended text and the addition of 'The Improvisatore' and 'The Garden of Boccaccio', followed in 1829.

Finally, in 1834, there was a reissue in three volumes of the contents of 1829 with numerous additional poems then published or collected for the first time. The first volume contained twenty-six juvenilia printed from letters and MS. copybooks which had been preserved by the poet's family, and the second volume some forty 'Miscellaneous Poems', extracted from the Notebooks or reprinted from newspapers. The most important additions were 'Alice du Clos', then first published from MS., 'The Knight's Tomb' and the 'Epitaph'. 'Love, Hope, and Patience in Education', which had appeared in the *Keepsake* of 1830, was printed on the last page of the third volume.

After Coleridge's death the first attempt to gather up the fragments of his poetry was made by his 'latest editor' H. N. Coleridge in 1836. The first volume of *Literary Remains* contains the first reprint of 'The Fall of Robespierre', some thirty-six poems collected from the *Watchman*, the *Morning Post*, &c., and a selection of fragments then first printed from a MS. Notebook, now known as 'the Gutch Memorandum Book'.

H. N. Coleridge died in 1843, and in 1844 his widow prepared a one-volume edition of the Poems, which was published by Pickering. Eleven juvenilia which had first appeared in

1834 were omitted and the poems first collected in *Literary Remains* were for the first time included in the text. In 1850 Mrs. H. N. Coleridge included in the third volume of the *Essays on His Own Times* six poems and numerous epigrams and *jeux d'esprit* which had appeared in the *Morning Post* and *Courier*. This was the first reprint of the Epigrams as a whole. A 'new edition' of the Poems which she had prepared in the last year of her life was published immediately after her death (May, 1852) by Edward Moxon. It was based on the one-volume edition of 1844, with unimportant omissions and additions; only one poem, 'The Hymn', was published for the first time from MS.

In the same year (1852) the Dramatic Works (not including 'The Fall of Robespierre'), edited by Derwent Coleridge, were published in a separate volume.

In 1863 and 1870 the 'new edition' of 1852 was reissued by Derwent Coleridge with an appendix containing thirteen poems collected for the first time in 1863. The reissue of 1870 contained a reprint of the first edition of the 'Ancient Mariner'.

The first edition of the *Poetical Works*, based on all previous editions, and including the contents of *Literary Remains* (vol. i) and of *Essays on His Own Times* (vol. iii), was issued by Basil Montagu Pickering in four volumes in 1877. Many poems (including 'Remorse') were collated for the first time with the text of previous editions and newspaper versions by the editor, Richard Herne Shepherd. The four volumes (with a Supplement to vol. ii) were reissued by Messrs. Macmillan in 1880.

Finally, in the one-volume edition of the *Poetical Works* issued by Messrs. Macmillan in 1893, J. D. Campbell included in the text some twenty poems and in the Appendix a large number of poetical fragments and first drafts then printed for the first time from MS.

The frontispiece of this edition is a photogravure by Mr. Emery Walker, from a pencil sketch (*circ.* 1818) by C. R. Leslie, R.A., in the possession of the Editor. An engraving of the sketch, by Henry Meyer, is dated April, 1819.

The vignette on the title-page is taken from the impression of a seal, stamped on the fly-leaf of one of Coleridge's Notebooks.

I desire to express my thanks to my kinsman Lord Coleridge

for opportunity kindly afforded me of collating the text of the fragments first published in 1893 with the original MSS. in his possession, and of making further extracts; to Mr. Gordon Wordsworth for permitting me to print a first draft of the poem addressed to his ancestor on the ‘Growth of an Individual Mind’; and to Miss Arnold of Fox How for a copy of the first draft of the lines ‘On Revisiting the Sea-shore’.

I have also to acknowledge the kindness and courtesy of the Authorities of Rugby School, who permitted me to inspect and to make use of an annotated copy of Coleridge’s translation of Schiller’s ‘Piccolomini’, and to publish first drafts of ‘The Eolian Harp’ and other poems which had formerly belonged to Joseph Cottle and were presented by Mr. Shadworth Hodgson to the School Library.

I am indebted to my friend Mr. Thomas Hutchinson for valuable information with regard to the authorship of some of the fragments, and for advice and assistance in settling the text of the ‘Metrical Experiments’ and other points of difficulty.

I have acknowledged in a prefatory note to the epigrams my obligation to Dr. Hermann Georg Fiedler, Taylorian Professor of the German Language and Literature at Oxford, in respect of his verifications of the German originals of many of the epigrams published by Coleridge in the *Morning Post* and elsewhere.

Lastly, I wish to thank Mr. H. S. Milford for the invaluable assistance which he afforded me in revising my collation of the ‘Songs of the Pixies’ and the ‘Introduction to the Tale of the Dark Ladié’, and some of the earlier poems, and the Reader of the Oxford University Press for numerous hints and suggestions, and for the infinite care which he has bestowed on the correction of slips of my own or errors of the press.

ERNEST HARTLEY COLERIDGE.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**MS. B. M.** = MS. preserved in the British Museum.

**MS. O.** = MS. Ottery: i.e. a collection of juvenile poems in the handwriting of S. T. Coleridge (*circ. 1793*).

**MS. O. (c.)** = MS. Ottery, No. 3: a transcript (*circ. 1823*) of a collection of juvenile poems by S. T. Coleridge.

**MS. S. T. C.** = A single MS. poem in the handwriting of S. T. Coleridge.

**MS. E.** = MS. Estlin: i.e. a collection of juvenile poems in the handwriting of S. T. Coleridge presented to Mrs. Estlin of Bristol *circ. 1795*.

**MS. 4°** = A collection of early poems in the handwriting of S. T. Coleridge (*circ. 1796*).

**MS. W.** = An MS. in the handwriting of S. T. Coleridge, now in the possession of Mr. Gordon Wordsworth.

**MS. R.** = MS. Rugby: i.e. in the possession of the Governors of Rugby School.

*An. Anth.* = *Annual Anthology* of 1800.

**B. L.** = *Biographia Literaria*.

**C. I.** = *Cambridge Intelligencer*.

**E. M.** = *English Minstrelsy*.

**F. F.** = *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 1818.

**F. O.** = *Friendship's Offering*, 1834.

**L. A.** = *Liber Aureus*.

**L. B.** = *Lyrical Ballads*.

**L. R.** = *Literary Remains*.

**M. C.** = *Morning Chronicle*.

**M. M.** = *Monthly Magazine*.

**M. P.** = *Morning Post*.

**P. R.** = *Poetical Register*, 1802.

**P. & D. W.** = *Poetical and Dramatic Works*.

**P. W.** = *Poetical Works*.

**S. L.** = *Sibylline Leaves* (1817).

**S. S.** = *Selection of Sonnets*.

## ERRATA

- On p. 16, n. 2, line 1, *for Oct. 15, read Oct. 25.*
- On p. 68, line 6, *for 1795 read 1794, and n. 1, line 1, for September 24, read September 23.*
- On p. 69, lines 11 and 28, *for 1795 read 1794.*
- On p. 96, n. 1, line 1, *for March 9, read March 17.*
- On p. 148, n. 1, line 2, *for March 28, read March 25.*
- On p. 314, line 17, *for May 26 read May 6.*
- On p. 1179, line 7, *for Sept. 27, read Sept. 23.*
- On p. 1181, line 33, *for Oct. 9 read Oct. 29.*

## **POETICAL WORKS**



# P O E M S

## EASTER HOLIDAYS<sup>1</sup>

### VERSE 1ST

HAIL! festal Easter that dost bring  
Approach of sweetly-smiling spring,  
When Nature's clad in green :  
When feather'd songsters through the grove  
With beasts confess the power of love  
And brighten all the scene.

5

### VERSE 2ND

Now youths the breaking stages load  
That swiftly rattling o'er the road  
To Greenwich haste away :  
While some with sounding oars divide  
Of smoothly-flowing Thames the tide  
All sing the festive lay.

10

### VERSE 3RD

With mirthful dance they beat the ground,  
Their shouts of joy the hills resound  
And catch the jocund noise :  
Without a tear, without a sigh  
Their moments all in transports fly  
Till evening ends their joys.

15

### VERSE 4TH

But little think their joyous hearts  
Of dire Misfortune's varied smarts  
Which youthful years conceal :  
Thoughtless of bitter-smiling Woe  
Which all mankind are born to know  
And they themselves must feel.

20

<sup>1</sup> From a hitherto unpublished MS. The lines were sent in a letter to Luke Coleridge, dated May 12, 1787.

## VERSE 5TH

Yet he who Wisdom's paths shall keep  
And Virtue firm that scorns to weep  
At ills in Fortune's power,  
Through this life's variegated scene  
In raging storms or calm serene  
Shall cheerful spend the hour.

25

30

## VERSE 6TH

While steady Virtue guides his mind  
Heav'n-born Content he still shall find  
That never sheds a tear :  
Without respect to any tide  
His hours away in bliss shall glide  
Like Easter all the year.

35

1787.

DURA NAVIS<sup>1</sup>

To tempt the dangerous deep, too venturous youth,  
Why does thy breast with fondest wishes glow ?  
No tender parent there thy cares shall sooth,  
No much-lov'd Friend shall share thy every woe.  
Why does thy mind with hopes delusive burn ?  
Vain are thy Schemes by heated Fancy plann'd :  
Thy promis'd joy thou'l see to Sorrow turn  
Exil'd from Bliss, and from thy native land.

5

Hast thou foreseen the Storm's impending rage,  
When to the Clouds the Waves ambitious rise,  
And seem with Heaven a doubtful war to wage,  
Whilst total darkness overspreads the skies ;  
Save when the lightnings darting wingéd Fate  
Quick bursting from the pitchy clouds between  
In forkéd Terror, and destructive state<sup>2</sup>  
Shall shew with double gloom the horrid scene ?

10

15

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1893. The autograph MS. is in the British Museum.

<sup>2</sup> *State, Grandeur* [1792]. This school exercise, written in the 15th year of my age, does not contain a line that any clever schoolboy might not have written, and like most school poetry is a *Putting of Thought into Verse*; for such Verses as *strivings* of mind and struggles after the Intense and Vivid are a fair Promise of better things.—S. T. C. *aetate suae* 51. [1828.]

Shalt thou be at this hour from danger free ?  
 Perhaps with fearful force some falling Wave  
 Shall wash thee in the wild tempestuous Sea,  
 And in some monster's belly fix thy grave ;  
 Or (woful hap !) against some wave-worn rock  
 Which long a Terror to each Bark had stood  
 Shall dash thy mangled limbs with furious shock  
 And stain its craggy sides with human blood.

Yet not the Tempest, or the Whirlwind's roar  
 Equal the horrors of a Naval Fight,  
 When thundering Cannons spread a sea of Gore  
 And varied deaths now fire and now affright :  
 The impatient shout, that longs for closer war,  
 Reaches from either side the distant shores ;  
 Whilst frighten'd at His streams ensanguin'd far  
 Loud on his troubled bed huge Ocean roars.<sup>1</sup>

What dreadful scenes appear before my eyes !  
 Ah ! see how each with frequent slaughter red,  
 Regardless of his dying fellows' cries  
 O'er their fresh wounds with impious order tread !  
 From the dread place does soft Compassion fly !  
 The Furies fell each alter'd breast command ;  
 Whilst Vengeance drunk with human blood stands by  
 And smiling fires each heart and arms each hand.      40

Should'st thou escape the fury of that day  
 A fate more cruel still, unhappy, view.  
 Opposing winds may stop thy luckless way,  
 And spread fell famine through the suffering crew,  
 Canst thou endure th' extreme of raging Thirst      45  
 Which soon may scorch thy throat, ah ! thoughtless Youth !  
 Or ravening hunger canst thou bear which erst  
 On its own flesh hath fix'd the deadly tooth ?

<sup>1</sup> I well remember old Jemmy Bowyer, the plagose Orbilius of Christ's Hospital, but an admirable educer no less than Educator of the Intellect, bade me leave out as many epithets as would turn the whole into eight-syllable lines, and then ask myself if the exercise would not be greatly improved. How often have I thought of the proposal since then, and how many thousand bloated and puffing lines have I read, that, by this process, would have tripped over the tongue excellently. Likewise, I remember that he told me on the same occasion—‘Coleridge ! the connections of a Declamation are not the transitions of Poetry—bad, however, as they are, they are better than “Apostrophes” and “O thou's”, for at the worst they are something like common sense. The others are the grimaces of Lunacy.’—S. T. COLERIDGE.

Dubious and fluttering 'twixt hope and fear  
 With trembling hands the lot I see thee draw,50  
 Which shall, or sentence thee a victim drear,  
 To that ghaunt Plague which savage knows no law :  
 Or, deep thy dagger in the friendly heart,  
 Whilst each strong passion agitates thy breast,  
 Though oft with Horror back I see thee start,55  
 Lo ! Hunger *drives* thee to th' inhuman feast.

These are the ills, that may the course attend—  
 Then with the joys of home contented rest—  
 Here, meek-eyed Peace with humble Plenty lend  
 Their aid united still, to make thee blest.60  
 To ease each pain, and to increase each joy—  
 Here mutual Love shall fix thy tender wife,  
 Whose offspring shall thy youthful care employ  
 And gild with brightest rays the evening of thy Life.

1787.

NIL PEJUS EST CAELIBE VITÂ<sup>1</sup>

[IN CHRIST'S HOSPITAL BOOK]

## I

WHAT pleasures shall he ever find ?  
 What joys shall ever glad his heart ?  
 Or who shall heal his wounded mind,  
 If tortur'd by Misfortune's smart ?  
 Who Hymeneal bliss will never prove,5  
 That more than friendship, friendship mix'd with love.

## II

Then without child or tender wife,  
 To drive away each care, each sigh,  
 Lonely he treads the paths of life  
 A stranger to Affection's tye :10  
 And when from Death he meets his final doom  
 No mourning wife with tears of love shall wet his tomb.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1893.

## III

Tho' Fortune, Riches, Honours, Pow'r,  
 Had giv'n with every other toy,  
 Those gilded trifles of the hour,  
 Those painted nothings sure to cloy :  
 He dies forgot, his name no son shall bear  
 To shew the man so blest once breath'd the vital air.

1787.

SONNET<sup>1</sup>

## TO THE AUTUMNAL MOON

MILD Splendour of the various-vested Night !  
 Mother of wildly-working visions ! hail !  
 I watch thy gliding, while with watery light  
 Thy weak eye glimmers through a fleecy veil ;  
 And when thou lovest thy pale orb to shroud  
 Behind the gather'd blackness lost on high ;  
 And when thou dartest from the wind-rent cloud  
 Thy placid lightning o'er the awaken'd sky.

Ah such is Hope ! as changeful and as fair !  
 Now dimly peering on the wistful sight ;  
 Now hid behind the dragon-wing'd Despair :  
 But soon emerging in her radiant might  
 She o'er the sorrow-clouded breast of Care  
 Sails, like a meteor kindling in its flight.

1788.

ANTHEM<sup>2</sup>

## FOR THE CHILDREN OF CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

SERAPHS ! around th' Eternal's seat who throng  
 With tuneful ecstasies of praise :  
 O ! teach our feeble tongues like yours the song  
 Of fervent gratitude to raise —

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1803, 1829, 1834. No changes were made in the text.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1834.

*Sonnet—Title] Effusion xviii, To the, &c. : Sonnet xviii, To the, &c., 1803.  
 Anthem. For the Children, &c.] This Anthem was written as if intended to have been sung by the Children of Christ's Hospital. MS. O.*

*3 yours] you MS. O.*

Like you, inspired with holy flame  
 To dwell on that Almighty name  
 Who bade the child of Woe no longer sigh,  
 And Joy in tears o'erspread the widow's eye.

Th' all-gracious Parent hears the wretch's prayer ;  
 The meek tear strongly pleads on high ;  
 Wan Resignation struggling with despair  
 The Lord beholds with pitying eye ;  
 Sees cheerless Want unpitied pine,  
 Disease on earth its head recline,  
 And bids Compassion seek the realms of woe  
 To heal the wounded, and to raise the low.

She comes ! she comes ! the meek-eyed Power I see  
 With liberal hand that loves to bless ;  
 The clouds of Sorrow at her presence flee ;  
 Rejoice ! rejoice ! ye Children of Distress !  
 The beams that play around her head  
 Thro' Want's dark vale their radiance spread :  
 The young uncultur'd mind imbibes the ray,  
 And Vice reluctant quits th' expected prey.

Cease, thou lorn mother ! cease thy wailings drear ;  
 Ye babes ! the unconscious sob forego ;  
 Or let full Gratitude now prompt the tear  
 Which erst did Sorrow force to flow.  
 Unkindly cold and tempest shrill  
 In Life's morn oft the traveller chill,  
 But soon his path the sun of Love shall warm ;  
 And each glad scene look brighter for the storm !

1789.

JULIA<sup>1</sup>

[IN CHRIST'S HOSPITAL BOOK]

Medio de fonte leporum  
 Surgit amari aliquid.

JULIA was blest with beauty, wit, and grace :  
 Small poets lov'd to sing her blooming face.  
 Before her altars, lo ! a numerous train  
 Preferr'd their vows ; yet all preferr'd in vain,

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *History of . . . Christ's Hospital*. By the Rev. W. Trollope, 1834, p. 192. Included in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 33, 34. First collected *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80.

14 its head on earth MS. O.

*Julia. Medio, &c.] De medio fonte leporum. Trollope.*

Till charming Florio, born to conquer, came  
And touch'd the fair one with an equal flame.  
The flame she felt, and ill could she conceal  
What every look and action would reveal.  
With boldness then, which seldom fails to move,  
He pleads the cause of Marriage and of Love :      10  
The course of Hymeneal joys he rounds,  
The fair one's eyes danc'd pleasure at the sounds.  
Nought now remain'd but 'Noes'—how little meant!  
And the sweet coyness that endears consent.  
The youth upon his knees enraptur'd fell :      15  
The strange misfortune, oh ! what words can tell ?  
Tell ! ye neglected sylphs ! who lap-dogs guard,  
Why snatch'd ye not away your precious ward ?  
Why suffer'd ye the lover's weight to fall  
On the ill-fated neck of much-lov'd Ball ?      20  
The favourite on his mistress casts his eyes,  
Gives a short melancholy howl, and—dies.  
Sacred his ashes lie, and long his rest !  
Anger and grief divide poor Julia's breast.  
Her eyes she fixt on guilty Florio first :      25  
On him the storm of angry grief must burst.  
That storm he fled : he wooes a kinder fair,  
Whose fond affections no dear puppies share.  
'Twere vain to tell, how Julia pin'd away :  
Unhappy Fair ! that in one luckless day—  
From future Almanacks the day be crost !—  
At once her Lover and her Lap-dog lost.

1789.

## QUAE NOCENT DOCENT<sup>1</sup>

IN CHRIST'S HOSPITAL BOOK

O ! mihi praeteritos referat si Jupiter annos !

Oh! might my ill-past hours return again!  
No more, as then, should Sloth around me throw  
Her soul-enslaving, leaden chain!  
No more the precious time would I employ  
In giddy revels, or in thoughtless joy,  
A present joy producing future woe.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1893.

12 danc'd] dance *T. Lit. Rem.*

But o'er the midnight Lamp I'd love to pore,  
I'd seek with care fair Learning's depths to sound,  
And gather scientific Lore :

Or to mature the embryo thoughts inclin'd,  
That half-conceiv'd lay struggling in my mind,  
The cloisters' solitary gloom I'd round.

'Tis vain to wish, for Time has ta'en his flight—  
For follies past be ceas'd the fruitless tears :

Let follies past to future care incite.  
Averse maturer judgements to obey  
Youth owns, with pleasure owns, the Passions' sway,  
But sage Experience only comes with years.

1789.

10

15

### THE NOSE<sup>1</sup>

YE souls unus'd to lofty verse

Who sweep the earth with lowly wing,  
Like sand before the blast disperse—

A Nose! a mighty Nose I sing!

As erst Prometheus stole from heaven the fire

5

To animate the wonder of his hand ;

Thus with unhallow'd hands, O Muse, aspire,

And from my subject snatch a burning brand !

So like the Nose I sing—my verse shall glow—

Like Phlegethon my verse in waves of fire shall flow !

10

Light of this once all darksome spot

Where now their glad course mortals run,

First-born of Sirius begot

Upon the focus of the Sun—

I'll call thee — ! for such thy earthly name—

15

What name so high, but what too low must be ?

Comets, when most they drink the solar flame

Are but faint types and images of thee !

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. The third stanza was published in the *Morning Post*, Jan. 2, 1798, entitled 'To the Lord Mayor's Nose'. William Gill (see ll. 15, 20) was Lord Mayor in 1788.

*The Nose—Title] Rhapsody MS. O : The Nose.—An Odaic Rhapsody MS. O (c).*

*5 As erst from Heaven Prometheus stole the fire MS. O (c). 7 hands]  
hand MS. O (c). 10 waves of fire] fiery waves MS. O (c). 15 I'll call  
thee Gill MS. O. G—ll MS. O (c). 16 high] great MS. O (c).*

Burn madly, Fire ! o'er earth in ravage run,  
Then blush for shame more red by fiercer — outdone !      20

I saw when from the turtle feast  
The thick dark smoke in volumes rose !  
I saw the darkness of the mist  
Encircle thee, O Nose !  
Shorn of thy rays thou shott'st a fearful gleam      25  
(The turtle quiver'd with prophetic fright)  
Gloomy and sullen thro' the night of steam :—  
So Satan's Nose when Dunstan urg'd to flight,  
Glowing from gripe of red-hot pincers dread  
Athwart the smokes of Hell disastrous twilight shed !      30

The Furies to madness my brain devote—  
In robes of ice my body wrap !  
On billowy flames of fire I float,  
Hear ye my entrails how they snap ?  
Some power unseen forbids my lungs to breathe !      35  
What fire-clad meteors round me whizzing fly !  
I vitrify thy torrid zone beneath,  
Proboscis fierce ! I am calcined ! I die !  
Thus, like great Pliny, in Vesuvius' fire,  
I perish in the blaze while I the blaze admire.      40

1789.

### TO THE MUSE<sup>1</sup>

Tho' no bold flights to thee belong ;  
And tho' thy lays with conscious fear,  
Shrink from Judgement's eye severe,  
Yet much I thank thee, Spirit of my song !  
For, lovely Muse ! thy sweet employ      5  
Exalts my soul, refines my breast,  
Gives each pure pleasure keener zest,  
And softens sorrow into pensive Joy.  
From thee I learn'd the wish to bless,  
From thee to commune with my heart ;      10

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834.

20 by fiercer Gill outdone MS. O. : more red for shame by fiercer G.—ll MS. O (c).      22 dark] dank MS. O, MS. O (c).      25 rays] beams MS. O (c).      30 MS. O (c) ends with the third stanza.  
*To the Muse—Title]* Sonnet I. To my Muse MS. O.

From thee, dear Muse ! the gayer part,  
 To laugh with pity at the crowds that press  
 Where Fashion flaunts her robes by Folly spun,  
 Whose hues gay-varying wanton in the sun.

1789.

DESTRUCTION OF THE BASTILE<sup>1</sup>

## I

HEARD'ST thou yon universal cry,  
 And dost thou linger still on Gallia's shore ?  
 Go, Tyranny ! beneath some barbarous sky  
 Thy terrors lost and ruin'd power deplore !  
 What tho' through many a groaning age                       5  
 Was felt thy keen suspicious rage,  
 Yet Freedom rous'd by fierce Disdain  
 Has wildly broke thy triple chain,  
 And like the storm which Earth's deep entrails hide,  
 At length has burst its way and spread the ruins wide.   10

\* \* \* \* \*

## IV

In sighs their sickly breath was spent ; each gleam  
 Of Hope had ceas'd the long long day to cheer ;  
 Or if delusive, in some flitting dream,  
 It gave them to their friends and children dear—  
 Awaked by lordly Insult's sound                       15  
 To all the doubled horrors round,  
 Oft shrunk they from Oppression's band  
 While Anguish rais'd the desperate hand  
 For silent death ; or lost the mind's controll,  
 Thro' every burning vein would tides of Frenzy roll.   20

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. *Note.* The Bastile was destroyed July 14, 1789.

*Destruction of the Bastile—Title]* An ode on the Destruction of the Bastile MS. O.

11 In MS. O stanza iv follows stanza i, part of the leaf being torn out. In another MS. copy in place of the asterisks the following note is inserted : ‘Stanzas second and third are lost. We may gather from the context that they alluded to the Bastile and its inhabitants.’   12 long long] live-long MS. O.

## v

But cease, ye pitying bosoms, cease to bleed !  
 Such scenes no more demand the tear humane ;  
 I see, I see ! glad Liberty succeed  
 With every patriot virtue in her train !  
 And mark yon peasant's raptur'd eyes ;      25  
 Secure he views his harvests rise ;  
 No fetter vile the mind shall know,  
 And Eloquence shall fearless glow.  
 Yes ! Liberty the soul of Life shall reign,  
 Shall throb in every pulse, shall flow thro' every vein !      30

## vi

Shall France alone a Despot spurn ?  
 Shall she alone, O Freedom, boast thy care ?  
 Lo, round thy standard Belgia's heroes burn,  
 Tho' Power's blood-stain'd streamers fire the air,  
 And wider yet thy influence spread,      35  
 Nor e'er recline thy weary head,  
 Till every land from pole to pole  
 Shall boast one independent soul !  
 And still, as erst, let favour'd Britain be  
 First ever of the first and freest of the free !      40

? 1789.

LIFE<sup>1</sup>

As late I journey'd o'er the extensive plain  
 Where native Otter sports his scanty stream,  
 Musing in torpid woe a Sister's pain,  
 The glorious prospect woke me from the dream.

At every step it widen'd to my sight—      5  
 Wood, Meadow, verdant Hill, and dreary Steep,  
 Following in quick succession of delight,—  
 Till all—at once—did my eye ravish'd sweep !

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834.

32 Shall She, O Freedom, all thy blessings share *MS. O erased.*  
*Life—Title]* Sonnet II. Written September, 1789 *MS. O* : Sonnet written just after the writer left the Country in Sept. 1789, *aetat. 15 MS. O (c).*

6 dreary] barren *MS. O, MS. O (c).*      8 my ravish'd eye did sweep.  
*MS. O, MS. O (c).*

May this (I cried) my course through Life portray !  
 New scenes of Wisdom may each step display,      10  
     And Knowledge open as my days advance !  
 Till what time Death shall pour the undarken'd ray,  
     My eye shall dart thro' infinite expanse,  
 And thought suspended lie in Rapture's blissful trance.

1789.

PROGRESS OF VICE<sup>1</sup>

[Nemo repente turpissimus]

DEEP in the gulph of Vice and Woe  
 Leaps Man at once with headlong throw ?  
     Him inborn Truth and Virtue guide,  
     Whose guards are Shame and conscious Pride.  
 In some gay hour Vice steals into the breast ;      5  
 Perchance she wears some softer Virtue's vest.  
     By unperceiv'd degrees she tempts to stray,  
 Till far from Virtue's path she leads the feet away.

Then swift the soul to disenthral  
 Will Memory the past recall,      10  
     And Fear before the Victim's eyes  
     Bid future ills and dangers rise.  
 But hark ! the Voice, the Lyre, their charms combine—  
 Gay sparkles in the cup the generous Wine—  
     Th' inebriate dance, the fair frail Nymph inspires,      15  
 And Virtue vanquish'd—scorn'd—with hasty flight retires.

But soon to tempt the Pleasures cease ;  
 Yet Shame forbids return to peace,  
     And stern Necessity will force  
     Still to urge on the desperate course.      20

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834, from *MS. O.*12 Till when death pours at length *MS. O* (c).14 While thought suspended lies *MS. O* : While thought suspended lies in Transport's blissful trance *MS. O* (c).*Progress of Vice*—Title] *Progress of Vice*. An Ode *MS. O*. The motto first appears in Boyer's *Liber Aureus*.1 Vice] Guilt *L. A.*      3 inborn] innate *L. A.*      9 Yet still the heart to disenthral *L. A.*      12 Bid] Bids *MS. O.*      ills] woes *L. A.*13 But hark ! their charms the voice *L. A.*      15 The mazy dance and frail young Beauty fires *L. A.*      20 Still on to urge *MS. O.*

The drear black paths of Vice the wretch must try,  
 Where Conscience flashes horror on each eye,  
 Where Hate—where Murder scowl—where starts Affright !  
 Ah ! close the scene—ah ! close—for dreadful is the sight.

1790.

MONODY ON THE DEATH OF CHATTERTON<sup>1</sup>

[FIRST VERSION, IN CHRIST'S HOSPITAL BOOK—1790]

Cold penury repress'd his noble rage,  
 And froze the genial current of his soul.

Now prompts the Muse poetic lays,  
 And high my bosom beats with love of Praise !  
 But, Chatterton ! methinks I hear thy name,  
 For cold my Fancy grows, and dead each Hope of Fame.

When Want and cold Neglect had chill'd thy soul,      5  
 Athirst for Death I see thee drench the bowl !

Thy corpse of many a livid hue  
 On the bare ground I view,  
 Whilst various passions all my mind engage ;  
 Now is my breast distended with a sigh,      10  
 And now a flash of Rage  
 Darts through the tear, that glistens in my eye.

Is this the land of liberal Hearts !  
 Is this the land, where Genius ne'er in vain  
 Pour'd forth her soul-enchanting strain ?      15

Ah me ! yet Butler 'gainst the bigot foe  
 Well-skill'd to aim keen Humour's dart,  
 Yet Butler felt Want's poignant sting ;  
 And Otway, Master of the Tragie art,  
 Whom Pity's self had taught to sing,      20

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1893. The version in the Ottery Copy-book (*MS. O*) was first published in *P. and D. W.*, 1880, ii. 355\*-8\*. Three MSS. of the *Monody*, &c. are extant : (1) the Ottery Copy-book [*MS. O*] ; (2) Boyer's *Liber Aureus*—the text as printed ; (3) the transcription of S. T. C.'s early poems made in 1828 [*MS. O (c)*]. Variants in 1 and 3 are given below.

24 Ah ! close the scene, for dreadful *MS. O*.

*Monody—Title*] A Monody on Chatterton, who poisoned himself at the age of eighteen—written by the author at the age of sixteen. *MS. O (c)*.

*Motto*] *The motto does not appear in MS. O, but a note is prefixed* : ‘This poem has since appeared in print, much altered, whether for the better I doubt. This was, I believe, written before the Author went to College’ (J. T. C.).

6 drench] drain *MS. O, MS. O (c)*.      7 corpse] corse *MS. O, MS. O (c)*.

13 Hearts] Heart *MS. O, MS. O (c)*.      20 taught] bade *MS. O, MS. O (c)*.

Sank beneath a load of Woe ;  
 This ever can the generous Briton hear,  
 And starts not in his eye th' indignant Tear ?

Elate of Heart and confident of Fame,  
 From vales where Avon sports, the Minstrel came,      25  
   Gay as the Poet hastes along  
   He meditates the future song,  
 How Ælla battled with his country's foes,  
   And whilst Fancy in the air  
   Paints him many a vision fair      30  
 His eyes dance rapture and his bosom glows.  
 With generous joy he views th' ideal gold :  
   He listens to many a Widow's prayers,  
   And many an Orphan's thanks he hears ;  
   He soothes to peace the care-worn breast,      35  
   He bids the Debtor's eyes know rest,  
   And Liberty and Bliss behold :  
 And now he punishes the heart of steel,  
 And her own iron rod he makes Oppression feel.

Fated to heave sad Disappointment's sigh,      40  
 To feel the Hope now rais'd, and now deprest,  
 To feel the burnings of an injur'd breast,  
   From all thy Fate's deep sorrow keen  
   In vain, O Youth, I turn th' affrighted eye ;  
   For powerful Fancy evernigh      45  
 The hateful picture forces on my sight.  
   There, Death of every dear delight,  
   Frowns Poverty of Giant mien !

In vain I seek the charms of youthful grace,  
 Thy sunken eye, thy haggard cheeks it shews,      50  
 The quick emotions struggling in the Face  
   Faint index of thy mental Throes,  
 When each strong Passion spurn'd controll,  
 And not a Friend was nigh to calm thy stormy soul.

Such was the sad and gloomy hour      55  
 When anguish'd Care of sullen brow  
 Prepared the Poison's death-cold power.  
 Already to thy lips was rais'd the bowl,  
 When filial Pity stood thee by,

21 Sank] Sunk *MS. O, MS. O (c)*.    22 This ever] Which can the . . . ever  
 hear *MS. O, MS. O (c)*.    29 whilst] while *MS. O*.    32 ideal] rising  
*MS. O*.    36 eyes] too *MS. O (c)*.    42 To feel] With all *MS. O*.    43  
 Lo ! from thy dark Fate's sorrow keen *MS. O*.    45 powerful] busy *MS. O*.  
 50 cheeks it] cheek she *MS. O*: looks she *MS. O (c)*.    51 the] thy *MS. O*.

Thy fix'd eyes she bade thee roll  
On scenes that well might melt thy soul—  
Thy native cot she held to view,  
Thy native cot, where Peace ere long  
Had listen'd to thy evening song ;  
Thy sister's shrieks she bade thee hear,  
And mark thy mother's thrilling tear,  
She made thee feel her deep-drawn sigh,  
And all her silent agony of Woe.  
And from *thy* Fate shall such distress ensue ?  
Ah ! dash the poison'd chalice from thy hand !  
And thou had'st dash'd it at her soft command ;  
But that Despair and Indignation rose,  
And told again the story of thy Woes,  
Told the keen insult of th' unfeeling Heart,  
The dread dependence on the low-born mind,  
Told every Woe, for which thy breast might smart,  
Neglect and grinning scorn and Want combin'd—  
Recoiling back, thou sent'st the friend of Pain  
To roll a tide of Death thro' every freezing vein.

O Spirit blest !  
Whether th' eternal Throne around,  
Amidst the blaze of Cherubim,  
Thou pourest forth the grateful hymn,  
Or, soaring through the blest Domain,  
Enraptur'st Angels with thy strain,—  
Grant me, like thee, the lyre to sound,  
Like thee, with fire divine to glow—  
But ah ! when rage the Waves of Woe,  
Grant me with firmer breast t'oppose their hate,  
And soar beyond the storms with upright eye elate !<sup>1</sup> 90  
1790.

60 eyes] eye MS. O. 61 On scenes which MS. O. On] To MS. O (c).  
 64 evening] Evening's MS. O (c). 66 thrilling] frequent MS. O (c).  
 67 made] bade MS. O, MS. O (c). 78 sent'st] badest MS. O. 79  
 To] Quick. freezing] icening MS. O, MS. O (c). 81 eternal] Eternal's  
 MS. O : endless MS. O (c). 82 Cherubim] Seraphim MS. O. 83 But  
 ah!] Like thee MS. O, MS. O (c).  
 89 To leave behind Contempt, and Want, and State, MS. O.  
     To leave behind Contempt and Want and Hate MS. O (c).  
     And seek in other worlds an happier Fate MS. O, MS. O (c).

<sup>1</sup> [Note to ll. 88–90.] ‘Altho’ this latter reflection savours of suicide, it will easily meet with the indulgence of the considerate reader when he reflects that the Author’s imagination was at that time inflam’d with the idea of his beloved Poet, and perhaps uttered a sentiment which in his cooler moments he would have abhor’d the thought of.’ [Signed] J. M. MS. O (c).

AN INVOCATION<sup>1</sup>

SWEET Muse ! companion of my every hour !  
 Voice of my Joy ! Sure soother of the sigh !  
 Now plume thy pinions, now exert each power,  
 And fly to him who owns the candid eye.

And if a smile of Praise thy labour hail  
 (Well shall thy labours then my mind employ)  
 Fly fleetly back, sweet Muse ! and with the tale  
 O'erspread my Features with a flush of Joy !

1790.

5

ANNA AND HARLAND<sup>2</sup>

WITHIN these wilds was Anna wont to rove  
 While Harland told his love in many a sigh,  
 But stern on Harland roll'd her brother's eye,  
 They fought, they fell—her brother and her love !

To Death's dark house did grief-worn Anna haste,

5

Yet here her pensive ghost delights to stay ;  
 Oft pouring on the winds the broken lay—  
 And hark, I hear her—'twas the passing blast.  
 I love to sit upon her tomb's dark grass,  
 Then Memory backward rolls Time's shadowy tide ;      10  
 The tales of other days before me glide :  
 With eager thought I seize them as they pass ;  
 For fair, tho' faint, the forms of Memory gleam,  
 Like Heaven's bright beauteous bow reflected in the stream.

?1790.

10

TO THE EVENING STAR<sup>3</sup>

O MEEK attendant of Sol's setting blaze,  
 I hail, sweet star, thy chaste effulgent glow ;  
 On thee full oft with fixéd eye I gaze  
 Till I, methinks, all spirit seem to grow.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1893, from an autograph MS.<sup>2</sup> First printed in the *Cambridge Intelligencer*, Oct. 15, 1794. First collected *P. and D. W.*, 1880, *Supplement*, ii. 359. The text is that of 1880 and 1893, which follow a MS. version.<sup>3</sup> First published in *P. and D. W.*, 1880, *Supplement*, ii. 359, from *MS. O.**Anna and Harland—Title] Anna and Henry C. I.*

<sup>1</sup> Along this glade C. I.    <sup>2</sup> Henry C. I.    <sup>3</sup> stern] dark C. I.    Harland]  
 Henry C. I.      <sup>5</sup> To her cold grave did woe-worn C. I.      <sup>6</sup> stay]  
 stray C. I.      <sup>7</sup> the] a C. I.      <sup>9</sup> dark] dank C. I.      <sup>10</sup> Then] There C. I.  
<sup>11</sup> tales] forms C. I.      <sup>14</sup> Like Heaven's bright bow reflected on the  
 stream. C. I.

O first and fairest of the starry choir,

5

O loveliest 'mid the daughters of the night,  
Must not the maid I love like thee inspire

Pure joy and calm Delight?

Must she not be, as is thy placid sphere

Serenely brilliant? Whilst to gaze a while

10

Be all my wish 'mid Fancy's high career

E'en till she quit this scene of earthly toil;

Then Hope perchance might fondly sigh to join  
Her spirit in thy kindred orb, O Star benign!

? 1790.

### PAIN<sup>1</sup>

ONCE could the Morn's first beams, the healthful breeze,  
All Nature charm, and gay was every hour:—

5

But ah! not Music's self, nor fragrant bower  
Can glad the trembling sense of wan Disease.

Now that the frequent pangs my frame assail,  
Now that my sleepless eyes are sunk and dim,

And seas of Pain seem waving through each limb—  
Ah what can all Life's gilded scenes avail?

I view the crowd, whom Youth and Health inspire,  
Hear the loud laugh, and catch the sportive lay,

10

Then sigh and think—I too could laugh and play  
And gaily sport it on the Muse's lyre,

Ere Tyrant Pain had chas'd away delight,

Ere the wild pulse throb'd anguish thro' the night!

? 1790.

### ON A LADY WEEPING<sup>2</sup>

IMITATION FROM THE LATIN OF NICOLAUS ARCHIUS

LOVELY gems of radiance meek

Trembling down my Laura's cheek,

As the streamlets silent glide

Thro' the Mead's enamell'd pride,

Pledges sweet of pious woe,

5

Tears which Friendship taught to flow,

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. <sup>2</sup> First published in 1893. From MS. O (c).

*Pain*—Title] Pain, a Sonnet MS. O : Sonnet Composed in Sickness MS.

<sup>3</sup> But ah! nor splendid feasts MS. O (c). <sup>12</sup> Muse's] festive MS. O, MS. O (c).

Sparkling in yon humid light  
 Love embathes his pinions bright:  
 There amid the glitt'ring show'r  
 Smiling sits th' insidious Power ;  
 As some wingéd Warbler oft  
 When Spring-clouds shed their treasures soft  
 Joyous tricks his plumes anew,  
 And flutters in the fosc'ring dew.

10

? 1790.

MONODY ON A TEA-KETTLE<sup>1</sup>

O MUSE who sangest late another's pain,  
 To griefs domestic turn thy coal-black steed !  
 With slowest steps thy funeral steed must go,  
 Nodding his head in all the pomp of woe :  
 Wide scatter round each dark and deadly weed ,  
 And let the melancholy dirge complain,  
 (Whilst Bats shall shriek and Dogs shall howling run)      5  
 The tea-kettle is spoilt and Coleridge is undone !  
 Your cheerful songs, ye unseen crickets, cease !  
 Let songs of grief your alter'd minds engage !      10  
 For he who sang responsive to your lay,  
 What time the joyous bubbles 'gan to play,  
 The *sooty swain* has felt the fire's fierce rage ;—  
 Yes, he is gone, and all my woes increase ;  
 I heard the water issuing from the wound—      15  
 No more the Tea shall pour its fragrant steams around !  
 O Goddess best belov'd ! Delightful Tea !  
 With thee compar'd what yields the madd'ning Vine ?  
 Sweet power ! who know'st to spread the calm delight,  
 And the pure joy prolong to midmost night !      20  
 Ah ! must I all thy varied sweets resign ?  
 Enfolded close in grief thy form I see ;  
 No more wilt thou extend thy willing arms,  
 Receive the *fervent Jove*, and yield him all thy charms !

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834, from MS. O. The text of 1893 follows an autograph MS. in the Editor's possession.

*Monody*] 1 Muse that late sang another's poignant pain *MS. S. T. C.*  
 3 In slowest steps the funeral steeds shall go *MS. S. T. C.*      4 Nodding  
 their heads *MS. S. T. C.*      5 each deadly weed *MS. S. T. C.*      8 The]  
 His *MS. S. T. C.*      9 songs] song *MS. S. T. C.*      15 issuing] hissing  
*MS. S. T. C.*      16 pour] throw *MS. S. T. C.*      steams] steam *MS. S. T. C.*  
 18 thee] whom *MS. S. T. C.*      Vine] Wine *MS. S. T. C.*      19 who] that  
*MS. S. T. C.*      21 various charms *MS. S. T. C.*      23 extend] expand  
*MS. S. T. C.*

How sink the mighty low by Fate opprest!—  
Perhaps, O Kettle! thou by scornful toe  
Rude urg'd t' ignoble place with plaintive din.  
May'st rust obscure midst heaps of vulgar tin;—  
As if no joy had ever seiz'd my breast  
When from thy spout the streams did arching fly,— 30  
As if, infus'd, thou ne'er hadst known t' inspire  
All the warm raptures of poetic fire!

But hark! or do I fancy the glad voice—  
'What tho' the swain did wondrous charms disclose—  
(Not such did Memnon's sister sable drest) 35  
Take these bright arms with royal face imprest,  
A better Kettle shall thy soul rejoice,  
And with Oblivion's wings o'erspread thy woes!'  
Thus Fairy Hope can soothe distress and toil;  
On empty Trivets she bids fancied Kettles boil! 40

1790.

GENEVIEVE<sup>1</sup>

MAID of my Love, sweet Genevieve!  
In Beauty's light you glide along:

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Cambridge Intelligencer* for Nov. 1, 1794: included in the editions of 1796, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. Three MSS. are extant; (1) an autograph in a copy-book made for the family [MS. O]; (2) an autograph in a copy-book presented to Mrs. Estlin [MS. E]; and (3) a transcript included in a copy-book presented to Sara Coleridge in 1823 [MS. O (c)]. In an unpublished letter dated Dec. 18, 1807, Coleridge invokes the aid of Richard ['Conservation'] Sharp on behalf of a 'Mrs. Brewman, who was elected a nurse to one of the wards of Christ's Hospital at the time that I was a boy there'. He says elsewhere that he spent full half the time from seventeen to eighteen in the sick ward of Christ's Hospital. It is doubtless to this period, 1789–90, that *Pain* and *Genevieve*, which, according to a Christ's Hospital tradition, were inspired by his 'Nurse's Daughter', must be assigned.

'This little poem was written when the Author was a boy'—*Note 1796, 1803.*

25 How low the mighty sink MS. S. T. C. 29 seiz'd] chear'd MS. S. T. C.

30-1 When from thy spout the stream did arching flow

As if, inspir'd MS. S. T. C.

33 the glad] Georgian MS. S. T. C. 34 the swain] its form MS. S. T. C.

35 Note. A parenthetical reflection of the Author's. MS. O. 38 wings] wing MS. S. T. C.

*Genevieve—Title*] Sonnet iii. MS. O: Ode MS. E: A Sonnet MS. O (c): Effusion xvii. 1796. The heading, *Genevieve*, first appears in 1803.

2 Thou glid'st along [so, too, in ll. 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14] MS. O, MS. E, MS. O (c), C. I.

Your eye is like the Star of Eve,  
 And sweet your voice, as Seraph's song  
 Yet not your heavenly beauty gives  
 This heart with Passion soft to glow:  
 Within your soul a voice there lives!  
 It bids you hear the tale of Woe.  
 When sinking low the sufferer wan  
 Beholds no hand outstretch'd to save,  
 Fair, as the bosom of the Swan  
 That rises graceful o'er the wave,  
 I've seen your breast with pity heave,  
 And *therefore* love I you, sweet Genevieve!

1789-90.

### ON RECEIVING AN ACCOUNT THAT HIS ONLY SISTER'S DEATH WAS INEVITABLE<sup>1</sup>

THE tear which mourn'd a brother's fate scarce dry—  
 Pain after pain, and woe succeeding woe—  
 Is my heart destin'd for another blow?  
 O my sweet sister! and must thou too die?  
 Ah! how has Disappointment pour'd the tear  
 O'er infant Hope destroy'd by early frost!  
 How are ye gone, whom most my soul held dear!  
 Scarce had I lov'd you ere I mourn'd you lost;  
 Say, is this hollow eye, this heartless pain,  
 Fated to rove thro' Life's wide cheerless plain—  
 Nor father, brother, sister meet its ken—  
 My woes, my joys unshared! Ah! long ere then  
 On me thy icy dart, stern Death, be prov'd;—  
 Better to die, than live and not be lov'd!

1791.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. The 'brother' (line 1) was Luke Herman Coleridge who died at Thorverton in 1790. Anne Coleridge, the poet's sister (the only daughter of his father's second marriage), died in March 1791.

4 Thy voice is lovely as the MS. E: Thy voice is soft, &c. MS. O (c), C. I. 8 It bids thee hear the tearful plaint of woe MS. E. 10 no... save] no friendly hand that saves MS. E. outstretch'd] stretcht out MS. O, MS. O (c), C. I. 12 the wave] quick-rolling waves MS. E. On receiving, &c.—Title] Sonnet v. MS. O.

1 tear] tears MS. O. 4 O my sweet sister must thou die MS. O. 7 gone] flown MS. O. 10 Fated] Destin'd MS. O. 11 father] Mother MS. O.

ON SEEING A YOUTH AFFECTIONATELY  
WELCOMED BY A SISTER<sup>1</sup>

I too a sister had! too cruel Death!  
How sad Remembrance bids my bosom heave!  
Tranquil her soul, as sleeping Infant's breath;  
Meek were her manners as a vernal Eve.  
Knowledge, that frequent lifts the bloated mind, 5  
Gave her the treasure of a lowly breast,  
And Wit to venom'd Malice oft assign'd,  
Dwelt in her bosom in a Turtle's nest.  
Cease, busy Memory! cease to urge the dart;  
Nor on my soul her love to me impress! 10  
For oh I mourn in anguish—and my heart  
Feels the keen pang, th' unutterable distress.  
Yet wherefore grieve I that her sorrows cease,  
For Life was misery, and the Grave is Peace!

1791.

A MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM<sup>2</sup>

If Pegasus will let *thee* only ride him,  
Spurning my clumsy efforts to o'erstride him,  
Some fresh expedient the Muse will try,  
And walk on stilts, although she cannot fly.

To THE REV. GEORGE COLERIDGE

DEAR BROTHER,

I have often been surprised that Mathematics, the quintessence of Truth, should have found admirers so few and so languid. Frequent consideration and minute scrutiny have at length unravelled the cause; viz. that though Reason is feasted, Imagination is starved; whilst Reason is luxuriating in its proper Paradise, Imagination is wearily travelling on a dreary desert. To assist Reason by the stimulus of Imagination is the design of the following production. In the execution of it much may be objectionable. The verse (particularly in the introduction of the ode) may be accused of unwarrantable liberties, but they are liberties equally homogeneal with the

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1834 without a title, but tabulated as 'Mathematical Problem' in 'Contents' 1 [p. xi].

*A Mathematical Problem—Title] Prospectus and Specimen of a Translation of Euclid in a series of Pindaric Odes, communicated in a letter of the author to his Brother Rev. G. Coleridge [March 17, 1791]. MS. O (c).*

exactness of Mathematical disquisition, and the boldness of Pindaric daring. I have three strong champions to defend me against the attacks of Criticism : the Novelty, the Difficulty, and the Utility of the work. I may justly plume myself that I first have drawn the nymph Mathesis from the visionary caves of abstracted idea, and caused her to unite with Harmony. The first-born of this Union I now present to you ; with interested motives indeed—as I expect to receive in return the more valuable offspring of your Muse.

Thine ever,  
S. T. C.

[CHRIST'S HOSPITAL], March 31, 1791.

This is now—this was erst,  
Proposition the first—and Problem the first.

I

On a given finite line  
Which must no way incline ;  
To describe an equi—  
—lateral Tri—  
—A, N, G, L, E.<sup>1</sup>  
Now let A. B.  
Be the given line  
Which must no way incline ;  
The great Mathematician  
Makes this Requisition,  
That we describe an Equi—  
—lateral Tri—  
—angle on it :  
Aid us, Reason—aid us, Wit !

5

10

10

II

From the centre A. at the distance A. B.  
Describe the circle B. C. D.  
At the distance B. A. from B. the centre  
The round A. C. E. to describe boldly venture.<sup>2</sup>  
(Third postulate see.)  
And from the point C.  
In which the circles make a pother  
Cutting and slashing one another,  
Bid the straight lines a journeying go.

15

20

<sup>1</sup> Poetice for Angle. Letter, 1791.

<sup>2</sup> Delendus 'fere'. Letter, 1791.

C. A. C. B. those lines will show.

To the points, which by A. B. are reckon'd, 25  
 And postulate the second  
 For Authority ye know.

A. B. C.

Triumphant shall be  
 An Equilateral Triangle, 30  
 Not Peter Pindar carp, nor Zoilus can wrangle.

### III

Because the point A. is the centre  
 Of the circular B. C. D.  
 And because the point B. is the centre  
 Of the circular A. C. E. 35  
 A. C. to A. B. and B. C. to B. A.  
 Harmoniously equal for ever must stay ;  
 Then C. A. and B. C.  
 Both extend the kind hand  
 To the basis, A. B. 40  
 Unambitiously join'd in Equality's Band.  
 But to the same powers, when two powers are equal,  
 My mind forbodes the sequel ;  
 My mind does some celestial impulse teach,  
 And equalises each to each. 45  
 Thus C. A. with B. C. strikes the same sure alliance,  
 That C. A. and B. C. had with A. B. before ;  
 And in mutual affiance  
 None attempting to soar  
 Above another, 50  
 The unanimous three  
 C. A. and B. C. and A. B.  
 All are equal, each to his brother,  
 Preserving the balance of power so true :  
 Ah ! the like would the proud Autocratrix<sup>1</sup> do ! 55  
 At taxes impending not Britain would tremble,  
 Nor Prussia struggle her fear to disseminate ;  
 Nor the Mah'met-sprung Wight  
 The great Mussulman  
 Would stain his Divan 60  
 With Urine the soft-flowing daughter of Fright.

<sup>1</sup> Empress of Russia.

36 A C to C B and C B to C A. Letter, 1791, MS. O (c). 48 affiance] alliance Letter, 1791. 55 Autocratrix] Autoeratorix MS. O (c).

## IV

But rein your stallion in, too daring Nine !  
 Should Empires bloat the scientific line ?  
 Or with dishevell'd hair all madly do ye run  
 For transport that your task is done ?

65

For done it is—the cause is tried !  
 And Proposition, gentle Maid,  
 Who soothly ask'd stern Demonstration's aid,  
 Has proved her right, and A. B. C.

70

Of Angles three  
 Is shown to be of equal side ;  
 And now our weary steed to rest in fine,  
 'Tis rais'd upon A. B. the straight, the given line.

1791.

HONOUR<sup>1</sup>

O, curas hominum ! O, quantum est in rebus inane !

THE fervid Sun had more than halv'd the day,  
 When gloomy on his couch Philedon lay ;  
 His feeble frame consumptive as his purse,  
 His aching head did wine and women curse ;  
 His fortune ruin'd and his wealth decay'd,  
 Clamorous his duns, his gaming debts unpaid,  
 The youth indignant seiz'd his tailor's bill,  
 And on its back thus wrote with moral quill :  
 ' Various as colours in the rainbow shown,

5

Or similar in emptiness alone,  
 How false, how vain are Man's pursuits below !  
 Wealth, Honour, Pleasure—what can ye bestow ?  
 Yet see, how high and low, and young and old  
 Pursue the all-delusive power of Gold.

10

Fond man ! should all Peru thy empire own,  
 For thee tho' all Golconda's jewels shone,  
 What greater bliss could all this wealth supply ?  
 What, but to eat and drink and sleep and die ?  
 Go, tempt the stormy sea, the burning soil—  
 Go, waste the night in thought, the day in toil,

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<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834: included in *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80, and in 1893.

*Honour]* No title, but motto as above *MS. O.*: Philedon, *Eds.* 1877, 1893.

Dark frowns the rock, and fierce the tempests rave—  
Thy ingots go the unconscious deep to pave!  
Or thunder at thy door the midnight train,  
Or Death shall knock that never knocks in vain.

Next Honour's sons come bustling on amain ;  
I laugh with pity at the idle train.

Infirm of soul! who think'st to lift thy name  
Upon the waxen wings of human fame,—  
Who for a sound, articulated breath—  
Gazest undaunted in the face of death!

What art thou but a Meteor's glaring light—  
Blazing a moment and then sunk in night?  
Caprice which rais'd thee high shall hurl thee low,  
Or Envy blast the laurels on thy brow.

To such poor joys could ancient Honour lead  
When empty fame was toiling Merit's meed ;  
To Modern Honour other lays belong ;  
Profuse of joy and Lord of right and wrong,  
Honour can game, drink, riot in the stew,  
Cut a friend's throat :—what cannot Honour do ?

Ah me!—the storm within can Honour still  
For Julio's death, whom Honour made me kill?  
Or will this lordly Honour tell the way

To pay those debts, which Honour makes me pay?  
Or if with pistol and terrific threats

I make some traveller pay my Honour's debts,  
A medicine for this wound can Honour give?  
Ah, no! my Honour dies to make my Honour live.

But see! young Pleasure, and her train advance,  
And joy and laughter wake the inebriate dance;  
Around my neck she throws her fair white arms,  
I meet her loves, and madden at her charms.

For the gay grape can joys celestial move,  
And what so sweet below as Woman's love?  
With such high transport every moment flies,  
I curse Experience that he makes me wise;  
For at his frown the dear deliriums flew,  
And the changed scene now wears a gloomy hue.  
A hideous hag th' Enchantress Pleasure seems,  
And all her joys appear but feverous dreams.

34 Or] And MS. O.

43-4 Or will my Honour kindly tell the way  
To pay the debts *MS. O.*

69 feverous] feverish *MS. O.*

The vain resolve still broken and still made,  
Disease and loathing and remorse invade ;  
The charm is vanish'd and the bubble's broke,—  
A slave to pleasure is a slave to smoke !'

Such lays repentant did the Muse supply ;  
When as the Sun was hastening down the sky,  
In glittering state twice fifty guineas come,—  
His Mother's plate antique had rais'd the sum.

Forth leap'd Philedon of new life possest :—  
'Twas Brookes's all till two,—'twas Hackett's all the rest !

1791.

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ON IMITATION<sup>1</sup>

ALL are not born to soar—and ah ! how few  
In tracks where Wisdom leads their paths pursue !  
Contagious when to wit or wealth allied,  
Folly and Vice diffuse their venom wide.  
On Folly every fool his talent tries ;  
It asks some toil to imitate the wise ;  
Tho' few like Fox can speak—like Pitt can think—  
Yet all like Fox can game—like Pitt can drink.

? 1791.

INSIDE THE COACH<sup>2</sup>

'Tis hard on Bagshot Heath to try  
Unclos'd to keep the weary eye ;  
But ah ! Oblivion's nod to get  
In rattling coach is harder yet.  
Slumbrous God of half-shut eye !  
Who lovest with limbs supine to lie ;  
Soother sweet of toil and care  
Listen, listen to my prayer ;  
And to thy votary dispense  
Thy soporific influence !

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<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. In MS. O lines 3, 4 follow lines 7, 8 of the text.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1834.

70 Brookes's, a famous gaming-house in Fleet Street. Hackett's, a brothel under the Covent Garden Piazza. Note MS. O.

*Inside the Coach—Title]* Ode to sleep. Travelling in the Exeter Coach with three other passengers over Bagshot Heath, after some vain endeavours to compose myself I composed this Ode—August 17, 1791. MS. O.

What tho' around thy drowsy head  
 The seven-fold cap of night be spread,  
 Yet lift that drowsy head awhile  
 And yawn propitiously a smile ;  
 In drizzly rains poppean dews      15  
 O'er the tired inmates of the Coach diffuse ;  
 And when thou'st charm'd our eyes to rest,  
 Pillowing the chin upon the breast,  
 Bid many a dream from thy dominions  
 Wave its various-painted pinions,      20  
 Till ere the splendid visions close  
 We snore quartettes in ecstasy of nose.  
 While thus we urge our airy course,  
 O may no jolt's electric force  
 Our fancies from their steeds unhorse,      25  
 And call us from thy fairy reign  
 To dreary Bagshot Heath again !

1791.

DEVONSHIRE ROADS<sup>1</sup>

THE indignant Bard composed this furious ode,  
 As tired he dragg'd his way thro' Plimtree road !<sup>2</sup>  
 Crusted with filth and stuck in mire  
 Dull sounds the Bard's bemuddled lyre ;  
 Nathless Revenge and Ire the Poet goad      5  
 To pour his imprecations on the road.  
 Curst road ! whose execrable way  
 Was darkly shadow'd out in Milton's lay,  
 When the sad fiends thro' Hell's sulphureous roads  
 Took the first survey of their new abodes ;      10  
 Or when the fall'n Archangel fierce  
 Dar'd through the realms of Night to pierce,  
 What time the Bloodhound lur'd by Human scent  
 Thro' all Confusion's quagmires floundering went.  
 Nor cheering pipe, nor Bird's shrill note      15  
 Around thy dreary paths shall float ;  
 Their boding songs shall scritch-owls pour  
 To fright the guilty shepherds sore,

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834.<sup>2</sup> Plymtree Road, August 18, 1791. Note, MS. O. [Plimtree is about 8 miles N. of Ottery St. Mary. S. T. C. must have left the mail coach at Cullompton to make his way home on foot.]12 Vulgo yclept night-cap MS. O.  
Devonshire Roads] No title MS. O.

13 that] thy MS. O.

Led by the wandering fires astray  
 Thro' the dank horrors of thy way !  
 While they their mud-lost sandals hunt  
 May all the curses, which they grunt  
 In raging moan like goaded hog,  
 Alight upon thee, damnéd Bog !

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1791.

MUSIC<sup>1</sup>

HENCE, soul-dissolving Harmony  
 That lead'st th' oblivious soul astray—  
 Though thou sphere-descended be—  
 Hence away !—  
 Thou mightier Goddess, thou demand'st my lay,      5  
 Born when earth was seiz'd with cholic ;  
 Or as more sapient sages say,  
 What time the Legion diabolic  
 Compell'd their beings to enshrine  
 In bodies vile of herded swine,      10  
 Precipitate adown the steep  
 With hideous rout were plunging in the deep,  
 And hog and devil mingling grunt and yell  
 Seiz'd on the ear with horrible obtrusion ;—  
 Then if aright old legendaries tell,      15  
 Wert thou begot by Discord on Confusion ?  
 What though no name's sonorous power  
 Was given thee at thy natal hour !—  
 Yet oft I feel thy sacred might,  
 While concords wing their distant flight.      20  
 Such Power inspires thy holy son  
 Sable clerk of Tiverton !  
 And oft where Otter sports his stream,  
 I hear thy banded offspring scream.  
 Thou Goddess ! thou inspir'st each throat ;      25  
 'Tis thou who pour'st the scritch-owl note !  
 Transported hear'st thy children all  
 Scrape and blow and squeak and squall ;  
 And while old Otter's steeple rings,  
 Clappest hoarse thy raven wings !      30

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1791.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834.

SONNET<sup>1</sup>

## ON QUITTING SCHOOL FOR COLLEGE

FAREWELL parental scenes! a sad farewell!  
 To you my grateful heart still fondly clings,  
 Tho' fluttering round on Fancy's burnish'd wings  
 Her tales of future Joy Hope loves to tell.  
 Adieu, adieu! ye much-lov'd cloisters pale!      5  
 Ah! would those happy days return again,  
 When 'neath your arches, free from every stain,  
 I heard of guilt and wonder'd at the tale!  
 Dear haunts! where oft my simple lays I sang,  
 Listening meanwhile the echoings of my feet,      10  
 Lingering I quit you, with as great a pang,  
 As when erewhile, my weeping childhood, torn  
 By early sorrow from my native seat,  
 Mingled its tears with hers—my widow'd Parent lorn.

1791.

ABSENCE<sup>2</sup>A FAREWELL ODE ON QUITTING SCHOOL FOR JESUS  
COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

WHERE graced with many a classic spoil  
 CAM rolls his reverend stream along,  
 I haste to urge the learnéd toil  
 That sternly chides my love-lorn song:  
 Ah me! too mindful of the days      5  
 Illumed by Passion's orient rays,  
 When Peace, and Cheerfulness and Health  
 Enriched me with the best of wealth.  
 Ah fair Delights! that o'er my soul  
 On Memory's wing, like shadows fly!      10  
 Ah Flowers! which Joy from Eden stole  
 While Innocence stood smiling by!—  
 But cease, fond Heart! this bootless moan:  
 Those Hours on rapid Pinions flown  
 Shall yet return, by Absence crown'd,      15  
 And scatter livelier roses round.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834.<sup>2</sup> First published in *Cambridge Intelligencer*, October 11, 1794: included in 1796, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

Sonnet—Title] Sonnet on the Same (i. e. 'Absence, A Farewell Ode,' &amp;c.) 1834.

Sonnet—Title] Sonnet on Quitting Christ's Hospital MS. O. Absence, A Farewell Ode 1796, 1803.

The Sun who ne'er remits his fires  
 On heedless eyes may pour the day:  
 The Moon, that oft from Heaven retires,  
 Endears her renovated ray.  
 What though she leave the sky unblest  
 To mourn awhile in murky vest?  
 When she relumes her lovely light,  
 We bless the Wanderer of the Night.

20

1791.

HAPPINESS<sup>1</sup>

ON wide or narrow scale shall Man  
 Most happily describe Life's plan?  
 Say shall he bloom and wither there,  
 Where first his infant buds appear;  
 Or upwards dart with soaring force,  
 And tempt some more ambitious course?

5

Obedient now to Hope's command,  
 I bid each humble wish expand,  
 And fair and bright Life's prospects seem,  
 While Hope displays her cheering beam,  
 And Fancy's vivid colourings stream,  
 While Emulation stands me nigh  
 The Goddess of the eager eye.

10

With foot advanc'd and anxious heart  
 Now for the fancied goal I start:—  
 Ah! why will Reason intervene  
 Me and my promis'd joys between!  
 She stops my course, she chains my speed,  
 While thus her forceful words proceed:—  
 'Ah! listen, Youth, ere yet too late,  
 What evils on thy course may wait!  
 To bow the head, to bend the knee,  
 A minion of Servility,  
 At low Pride's frequent frowns to sigh,

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<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. The poem was sent to George Coleridge in a letter dated June 22, 1791. An adapted version of ll. 80-105 was sent to Southey, July 13, 1794.

*Happiness—Title]* Upon the Author's leaving school and entering into Life. *MS. O (c).*

<sup>6</sup> *tempt]* dare *MS. O, MS. O (c).* <sup>10</sup> *While]* When *MS. O, MS. O (c).*  
*Between 11-13* How pants my breast before my eyes

While Honour waves her radiant prize.

And Emulation, &c. *MS. O, MS. O (c).*

<sup>22</sup> To bend the head, to bow *MS. O (c).* <sup>24</sup> *frowns]* frown *MS. O, MS. O (c).*

And watch the glance in Folly's eye; ..... 25  
 To toil intense, yet toil in vain,  
 And feel with what a hollow pain  
 Pale Disappointment hangs her head  
 O'er darling Expectation dead!

'The scene is changed and Fortune's gale 30  
 Shall belly out each prosperous sail.  
 Yet sudden wealth full well I know  
 Did never happiness bestow.  
 That wealth to which we were not born  
 Dooms us to sorrow or to scorn. 35  
 Behold yon flock which long had trod  
 O'er the short grass of Devon's sod,  
 To Lincoln's rank rich meads transferr'd,  
 And in their fate thy own be fear'd;  
 Through every limb contagions fly, 40  
 Deform'd and choked they burst and die.

'When Luxury opens wide her arms,  
 And smiling woes thee to those charms,  
 Whose fascination thousands own,  
 Shall thy brows wear the stoic frown? 45  
 And when her goblet she extends  
 Which maddening myriads press around,  
 What power divine thy soul befriends  
 That thou should'st dash it to the ground?—  
 No, thou shalt drink, and thou shalt know 50  
 Her transient bliss, her lasting woe,  
 Her maniac joys, that know no measure,  
 And Riot rude and painted Pleasure;—  
 Till (sad reverse!) the Enchantress vile  
 To frowns converts her magic smile; 55  
 Her train impatient to destroy,  
 Observe her frown with gloomy joy;  
 On thee with harpy fangs they seize  
 The hideous offspring of Disease,  
 Swoln Dropsy ignorant of Rest, 60  
 And Fever garb'd in scarlet vest,  
 Consumption driving the quick hearse,  
 And Gout that howls the frequent curse,  
 With Apoplex of heavy head  
 That surely aims his dart of lead. 65

25 in] of MS. O (c). 41 Deformed, choaked MS. O, MS. O (c). 45  
 brows] brow MS. O, MS. O (c). 55 magic] wonted MS. O, MS. O (c).  
 57 her frown] the fiend MS. O, MS. O (c).

'But say Life's joys unmix'd were given  
 To thee some favourite of Heaven :  
 Within, without, tho' all were health—  
 Yet what e'en thus are Fame, Power, Wealth,  
 But sounds that variously express,  
 What's thine already—Happiness !  
 'Tis thine the converse deep to hold  
 With all the famous sons of old ;  
 And thine the happy waking dream  
 While Hope pursues some favourite theme,  
 As oft when Night o'er Heaven is spread,  
 Round this maternal seat you tread,  
 Where far from splendour, far from riot,  
 In silence wrapt sleeps careless Quiet.  
 'Tis thine with Fancy oft to talk,  
 And thine the peaceful evening walk ;  
 And what to thee the sweetest are—  
 The setting sun, the Evening Star—  
 The tints, which live along the sky,  
 And Moon that meets thy raptur'd eye,  
 Where oft the tear shall grateful start,  
 Dear silent pleasures of the Heart !  
 Ah ! Being blest, for Heaven shall lend  
 To share thy simple joys a friend !  
 Ah ! doubly blest, if Love supply  
 His influence to complete thy joy,  
 If chance some lovely maid thou find  
 To read thy visage in thy mind.

68 Without, within MS. O, MS. O (c). 76 is] has MS. O, MS. O (c).

77 Note—Christ's Hospital MS. O : Ottery S. Mary in Devonshire MS. O (c).

80-1      'Tis thine with faery forms to talk

And thine the philosophic walk. *Letter to Southey, 1794.*

84 which] that MS. O, MS. O (c), *Letter, 1794.* 85 And] *The Letter, 1794.*

86 Where grateful oft the big drops start. *Letter, 1794.* shall] does MS. O (c).

90-3      Ah ! doubly blest, if Love supply

Lustre to this now heavy eye,

And with unwonted Spirit grace

That fat\* vacuity of face.

Or if e'en Love, the mighty Love

Shall find this change his power above ;

Some lovely maid perchance thou'l find

To read thy visage in thy mind. MS. O, MS. O (c).

\* The Author was at this time, *aetat.* 17, remarkable for a plump face. MS. O (c).

'One blessing more demands thy care:—  
Once more to Heaven address the prayer: . . . . .  
For humble independence pray  
The guardian genius of thy way;  
Whom (sages say) in days of yore  
Meek Competence to Wisdom bore,  
So shall thy little vessel glide  
With a fair breeze adown the tide,  
And Hope, if e'er thou 'ginst to sorrow,  
Remind thee of some fair to-morrow,  
Till Death shall close thy tranquil eye  
While Faith proclaims "Thou shalt not die!"'

## A WISH<sup>1</sup>

WRITTEN IN JESUS WOOD, FEB. 10, 1792

Lo ! through the dusky silence of the groves,  
Thro' vales irriguous, and thro' green retreats,  
With languid murmur creeps the placid stream  
    And works its secret way.

Awhile meand'ring round its native field.

It rolls the playful wave and winds its flight;

Then downward flowing with awak'nd speed

#### Embosoms in the Deep!

Thus thro' its silent tenor may my Life

Smooth its meek stream by sordid wealth unloago'd

Alike unconscious of forensia storms.

conscious of forensie storms,  
And Glory's blood stain'd palm!

And when dark Age shall close Life's little day

And when dark Age shall close Life's  
Satiate of sport, and weary of its tails

Satiate of sport, and weary of its toils,  
Even thus may slumberous Death my decent limbs.

En thus may slumbrous Death  
Compose with icy hand!

1792. Compose with thy hand!

AN ODE IN THE MANNER OF ANACREON<sup>2</sup>

As late, in wreaths, gay flowers I bound,  
Beneath some roses Love I found ;  
And by his little frolic pinion  
As quick as thought I seiz'd the minion,

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1893, from *MS. Letter to Mary Evans*, Feb. 13 [1792].

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1893, from *MS. Letter*, Feb. 13 [1792].

96-7 But if thou pour one votive lay

For humble, &c. Letter, 1794.

96 Not in Letter.

<sup>101</sup> adown Life's tide MS. O, MS. O (c).

102-3 Not in Letter, 1794.

Then in my cup the prisoner threw,  
And drank him in its sparkling dew :  
And sure I feel my angry guest  
Fluttering *his wings* within my breast !

1792.

5

TO DISAPPOINTMENT<sup>1</sup>

HENCE ! thou fiend of gloomy sway,  
That lov'st on withering blast to ride  
O'er fond Illusion's air-built pride.  
Sullen Spirit ! Hence ! Away !

Where Avarice lurks in sordid cell,  
Or mad Ambition builds the dream,  
Or Pleasure plots th' unholy scheme  
There with Guilt and Folly dwell !

But oh ! when Hope on Wisdom's wing  
Prophetic whispers pure delight,  
Be distant far thy cank'rous blight,  
Demon of envenom'd sting.

Then haste thee, Nymph of balmy gales !  
Thy poet's prayer, sweet May ! attend !  
Oh ! place my parent and my friend  
'Mid her lovely native vales.

Peace, that lists the woodlark's strains,  
Health, that breathes divinest treasures,  
Laughing Hours, and Social Pleasures  
Wait my friend in Cambria's plains.

Affection there with mingled ray  
Shall pour at once the raptures high  
Of filial and maternal Joy ;  
Haste thee then, delightful May !

And oh ! may Spring's fair flowerets fade,  
May Summer cease her limbs to lave  
In cooling stream, may Autumn grave  
Yellow o'er the corn-cloath'd glade ;

Ere, from sweet retirement torn,  
She seek again the crowded mart :  
Nor thou, my selfish, selfish heart  
Dare her slow return to mourn !

1792.

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<sup>1</sup> First published in *Letters of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*, 1895, i. 28, 29. The lines were included in a letter to Mrs. Evans, dated February 13, 1792.

A FRAGMENT FOUND IN A LECTURE-ROOM<sup>1</sup>

WHERE deep in mud Cam rolls his slumbrous stream,  
 And bog and desolation reign supreme ;  
 Where all Boeotia clouds the misty brain,  
 The owl Mathesis pipes her loathsome strain.  
 Far, far aloof the frightened Muses fly,  
 Indignant Genius scowls and passes by :  
 The frolic Pleasures start amid their dance,  
 And Wit congeal'd stands fix'd in wintry trance.  
 But to the sounds with duteous haste repair  
 Cold Industry, and wary-footed Care ;  
 And Dulness, dosing on a couch of lead,  
 Pleas'd with the song uplifts her heavy head,  
 The sympathetic numbers lists awhile,  
 Then yawns propitiously a frosty smile. . . .

[Caetera desunt.]

1792.

ODE<sup>2</sup>

YE Gales, that of the Lark's repose  
 The impatient Silence break,  
 To yon poor Pilgrim's wearying Woes  
 Your gentle Comfort speak !  
 He heard the midnight whirlwind die,  
 He saw the sun-awaken'd Sky  
 Resume its slowly-purpling Blue :  
 And ah ! he sigh'd—that I might find  
 The cloudless Azure of the Mind  
 And Fortune's brightning Hue !  
 Where'er in waving Foliage hid  
 The Bird's gay Charm ascends,  
 Or by the fretful current chid  
 Some giant Rock impends—  
 There let the lonely Cares respire  
 As small airs thrill the mourning Lyre

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Letters of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*, 1895, i. 44. The lines were sent in a letter to the Rev. G. Coleridge, dated April [1792].

<sup>2</sup> These lines, first published in the *Watchman* (No. IV, March 25, 1796, signed G. A. U. N. T.), were included in the volume of MS. Poems presented to Mrs. Estlin in April, 1795. They were never claimed by Coleridge or assigned to him, and are now collected for the first time.

*Fragment.* 1 slumbrous] reverend MS. E. 5 frightened] affrighted  
 MS. E. 9 to] at MS. E. 12 Sooth'd with the song uprears  
 MS. E. 13 The] Its MS. E. 16 mourning] lonely W.  
*Ode—Title]* A Morning Effusion *Watchman*. 4 Comfort] solace W.  
 13 fretful] fretting MS. E

And teach the Soul her native Calm :  
 While Passion with a languid Eye  
 Hangs o'er the fall of Harmony  
 And drinks the sacred Balm.

20

Slow as the fragrant whisper creeps  
 Along the lilyed Vale,  
 The alter'd Eye of Conquest weeps,  
 And ruthless War grows pale  
 Relenting that his Heart forsook  
 Soft Concord of auspicious Look,  
 And Love, and social Poverty ;  
 The Family of tender Fears,  
 The Sigh, that saddens and endears,  
 And Cares, that sweeten Joy.

25

Then cease, thy frantic Tumults cease,  
 Ambition, Sire of War !  
 Nor o'er the mangled Corse of Peace  
 Urge on thy scythéd Car.  
 And oh ! that Reason's voice might swell  
 With whisper'd Airs and holy Spell  
 To rouse thy gentler Sense,  
 As bending o'er the chilly bloom  
 The Morning wakes its soft Perfume  
 With breezy Influence.

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1792.

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A LOVER'S COMPLAINT TO HIS MISTRESS<sup>1</sup>  
 WHO DESERTED HIM IN QUEST OF A MORE WEALTHY HUSBAND  
 IN THE EAST INDIES

THE dubious light sad glimmers o'er the sky :  
 'Tis silence all. By lonely anguish torn,  
 With wandering feet to gloomy groves I fly,  
 And wakeful Love still tracks my course forlorn.  
 And will you, cruel Julia ! will you go ?  
 And trust you to the Ocean's dark dismay ?  
 Shall the wide wat'ry world between us flow ?  
 And winds unpitying snatch my Hopes away ?

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<sup>1</sup> First published in 1893, from *MS. Letter*, Feb. 13 [1792].

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17 her] its <i>W.</i>	18 languid] waning <i>W.</i>	19 Hangs] Bends <i>W.</i>
21-2 As slow the whisper'd measure creeps		
Along the steaming Vale. <i>W.</i>		
24 grows] turns <i>W.</i>	31 Tumults] outrage <i>W.</i>	32 Thou scepter'd
Demon, WAR <i>W.</i>	35 oh] ah <i>W.</i>	38 chilly] flowrets' <i>W.</i>

Thus could you sport with my too easy heart ?  
 Yet tremble, lest not unaveng'd I grieve ! . . . . . 10  
 The winds may learn your own delusive art,  
 And faithless Ocean smile—but to deceive !

1792.

WITH FIELDING'S 'AMELIA'<sup>1</sup>

VIRTUES and Woes alike too great for man  
 In the soft tale oft claim the useless sigh ;  
 For vain the attempt to realise the plan,  
 On Folly's wings must Imitation fly.  
 With other aim has Fielding here display'd 5  
 Each social duty and each social care ;  
 With just yet vivid colouring portray'd  
 What every wife should be, what many are.  
 And sure the Parent<sup>2</sup> of a race so sweet  
 With double pleasure on the page shall dwell, 10  
 Each scene with sympathizing breast shall meet,  
 While Reason still with smiles delights to tell  
 Maternal hope, that her loved progeny  
 In all but sorrows shall Amelias be !

? 1792.

WRITTEN AFTER A WALK BEFORE SUPPER<sup>3</sup>

Tho' much averse, dear Jack, to flicker,  
 To find a likeness for friend V—ker,  
 I've made thro' Earth, and Air, and Sea,  
 A Voyage of Discovery !  
 And let me add (to ward off strife) 5  
 For V—ker and for V—ker's Wife—  
 She large and round beyond belief,  
 A superfluity of beef !

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834.<sup>2</sup> It is probable that the recipient of the *Amelia* was the mother of Coleridge's first love, Mary Evans.<sup>3</sup> First published in 1796, and secondly in *P. and D. W.*, 1877–80. These lines, described as 'A Simile', were sent in a letter to the Rev. George Coleridge, dated August 9 [1792]. The Rev. Fulwood Smerdon, the 'Vicar' of the original MS., succeeded the Rev. John Coleridge as vicar of Ottery St. Mary in 1781. He was the 'Edmund' of 'Lines to a Friend', &c., *vide post*, pp. 74, 75.With Fielding's 'Amelia'—Title] Sent to Mrs. —— with an *Amelia*. MS. O.  
 10 double] doubled MS. O.

Written after, &amp;c.—Title] Epistle iii. Written, &amp;c., 1796.

1 dear Jack] at folk Letter, 1792. 2 A simile for Vicar Letter, 1792.

6 For Vicar and for Vicar's wife Letter, 1792. 7 large] gross Letter, 1792.

Her mind and body of a piece,  
And both composed of kitchen-grease.  
In short, Dame Truth might safely dub her  
Vulgarity enshrin'd in blubber !  
He, meagre bit of littleness,  
All snuff, and musk, and politesse ;  
So thin, that strip him of his clothing,  
He'd totter on the edge of Nothing !  
In case of foe, he well might hide  
Snug in the collops of her side.

Ah then, what simile will suit ?  
Spindle-leg in great jack-boot ?  
Pismire crawling in a rut ?  
Or a spigot in a butt ?  
Thus I humm'd and ha'd awhile,  
When Madam Memory with a smile  
Thus twitch'd my ear—‘ Why sure, I ween,  
In London streets thou oft hast seen  
The very image of this pair :  
A little Ape with huge She-Bear  
Link'd by hapless chain together :  
An unlick'd mass the one—the other  
An antic small with nimble crupper—  
But stop, my Muse ! for here comes supper.

1792.

IMITATED FROM OSSIAN<sup>1</sup>

THE stream with languid murmur creeps,  
In Lumin's *flowery* vale :  
Beneath the dew the Lily weeps  
Slow-waving to the gale.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. The following note was attached in 1796 and 1803 :—The flower hangs its [heavy] head waving at times to the gale. ‘ Why dost thou awake me, O Gale ? ’ it seems to say, ‘ I am covered with the drops of Heaven. The time of my fading is near, the blast that shall scatter my leaves. To-morrow shall the traveller come ; he that saw me in my beauty shall come. His eyes will search the field, [but] they will not find me. So shall they search in vain for the voice of Cona, after it has failed in the field.’—Berrathon, see Ossian’s *Poems*, vol. ii. [ed. 1819, p. 481].

.12 enshrin'd] enclos'd      19 will] can Letter, 1792.      23 I ha'd and hem'd Letter, 1792.      24 Madam] Mrs. Letter, 1792.      28 huge] large Letter, 1792.      29 Link'd] Tied Letter, 1792.      31 small] lean Letter, 1792 : huge 1796, 1877, 1888, 1898. For Antic huge read *antic small* ‘ Errata ’, 1796 p. [189]. *Imitated, &c.—Title]* Ode MS. E.

'Cease, restless gale!' it seems to say, 5  
 'Nor wake me with thy sighing!  
 The honours of my vernal day  
 On rapid wing are flying.  
 'To-morrow shall the Traveller come  
 Who late beheld me blooming: 10  
 His searching eye shall vainly roam  
 The *dreary* vale of Lumin.'  
 With eager gaze and wetted cheek  
 My wonted haunts along,  
 Thus, faithful Maiden! *thou* shalt seek 15  
 The Youth of simplest song.  
 But I along the breeze shall roll  
 The voice of feeble power;  
 And dwell, the Moon-beam of thy soul,  
 In Slumber's nightly hour. 20

1793.

THE COMPLAINT OF NINATHÓMA<sup>1</sup>

FROM THE SAME

How long will ye round me be swelling,  
 O ye blue-tumbling waves of the sea?  
 Not always in caves was my dwelling,  
 Nor beneath the cold blast of the tree.  
 Through the high-sounding halls of Cathlóma 5  
 In the steps of my beauty I strayed;  
 The warriors beheld Ninathóma,  
 And they blessed the white-bosom'd Maid!  
 A Ghost! by my cavern it darted!  
 In moon-beams the Spirit was drest— 10

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796: included in 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. These lines were included in a letter from Coleridge to Mary Evans, dated Feb. 7, 1793. In 1796 and 1803 the following note was attached:— 'How long will ye roll around me, blue-tumbling waters of Ocean. My dwelling is not always in caves; nor beneath the whistling tree. My [The] feast is spread in Torthoma's Hall. [My father delighted in my voice.] The youths beheld me in [the steps of] my loveliness. They blessed the dark-haired Nina-thomà.'—Berrathon [Ossian's Poems, 1819, ii. 484].

10 That erst, &c. MS. E. 15 faithful] lovely MS. E. 16 simplest] gentle MS. E.

*The Complaint, &c.—Title] Effusion xxx. The Complaint, &c., 1796.*

5 halls] Hall Letter, 1793. 8 white-bosom'd] dark-tressed Letter, 1793.

*Between 8-9 By my friends, by my Lovers discarded,*

*Like the flower of the Rock now I waste,*

*That lifts her fair head unregarded,*

*And scatters its leaves on the blast. Letter, 1793.*

For lovely appear the Departed  
 When they visit the dreams of my rest !  
 But disturb'd by the tempest's commotion  
 Fleet the shadowy forms of delight—  
 Ah cease, thou shrill blast of the Ocean !  
 To howl through my cavern by night.

1793.

15

SONGS OF THE PIXIES<sup>1</sup>

THE Pixies, in the superstition of Devonshire, are a race of beings invisibly small, and harmless or friendly to man. At a small distance from a village in that county, half-way up a wood-covered hill, is an excavation called the Pixies' Parlour. The roots of old trees form its ceiling ; and on its sides are innumerable cyphers, among which the author discovered his own cypher and those of his brothers, cut by the hand of their childhood. At the foot of the hill flows the river Otter.

To this place the Author, during the summer months of the year 1793, conducted a party of young ladies ; one of whom, of stature elegantly small, and of complexion colourless yet clear, was proclaimed the Faery Queen. On which occasion the following Irregular Ode was written.

## I

WHOM the untaught Shepherds call  
 Pixies in their madrigal,  
 Fancy's children, here we dwell :  
 Welcome, Ladies ! to our cell.  
 Here the wren of softest note  
 Builds its nest and warbles well ;  
 Here the blackbird strains his throat ;  
 Welcome, Ladies ! to our cell.

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<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. *The Songs of the Pixies* forms part of the volume of MS. Poems presented to Mrs. Estlin, and of a quarto MS. volume which the poet retained for his own use.

13 disturb'd] dispers'd *Letter, 1793.*

*Songs of the Pixies*] This preface appears in all editions. Previous to 1834 the second paragraph read :—To this place the Author conducted a party of young Ladies, during the Summer months of the year 1793, &c.

The Songs of the Pixies, an irregular Ode. The lower orders of the people in Devonshire have a superstition concerning the existence of 'Pixies', a race of beings supposed to be invisibly small, and harmless or friendly to man. At a small village in the county, half-way up a Hill, is a large excavation called the 'Pixies' Parlour. The roots of the trees growing above it form the ceiling—and on its sides are engraved innumerable cyphers, among which the author descipted his own and those of his Brothers, cut by the rude hand of their childhood. At the foot of the Hill flows the River Otter. To this place the Author had the Honour of conducting a party of Young Ladies during the Summer months, on which occasion the following Poem was written. *MS. E.*

## II

When fades the moon to shadowy-pale,  
And scuds the cloud before the gale,      10  
Ere the Morn all gem-bedight  
Hath streak'd the East with rosy light,  
We sip the furze-flower's fragrant dews  
Clad in robes of rainbow hues ;  
Or sport amid the shooting gleams      15  
To the tune of distant-tinkling teams,  
While lusty Labour scouting sorrow  
Bids the Dame a glad good-morrow,  
Who jogs the accustom'd road along,  
And paces cheery to her cheering song.      20

## III

But not our filmy pinion  
We scorch amid the blaze of day,  
When Noontide's fiery-tresséd minion  
    Flashes the fervid ray.  
Aye from the sultry heat      25  
    We to the cave retreat  
O'ercanopied by huge roots intertwin'd  
With wildest texture, blacken'd o'er with age :  
Round them their mantle green the ivies bind,  
    Beneath whose foliage pale      30  
    Fann'd by the unfrequent gale  
We shield us from the Tyrant's mid-day rage.

*Note.* The emendations in ll. 9, 11, 12, 15, 16 are peculiar to the edition of 1834, and are, certainly, Coleridge's own handiwork.

9 to] all MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, MS. E, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.      11 Ere Morn  
with living gems bedight MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, MS. E, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.  
12 Hath streak'd] Purples MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, MS. E, 1796, 1828, 1829 : Streaks 1797,  
1803. rosy] streaky MS. E, 1796, 1828, 1829 : purple 1797, 1803. After l. 14  
the following lines appear in MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, MS. E, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828 :

Richer than the deepen'd bloom  
That glows on Summer's lily-scented (scented 1797, 1803) plume.

15 shooting] rosy MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, MS. E, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.      15-16  
gleam . . . team MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, MS. E, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.      16 To the  
tune of] Sooth'd by the MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, MS. E, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.      20  
Timing to Dobbin's foot her cheery song. MS. E, MS. 4<sup>o</sup> erased.      21  
our] the MS. E.

## IV

Thither, while the murmuring throng  
Of wild-bees hum their drowsy song,  
By Indolence and Fancy brought,  
A youthful Bard, ‘unknown to Fame,’  
Wooes the Queen of Solemn Thought,  
And heaves the gentle misery of a sigh  
Gazing with tearful eye,  
As round our sandy grot appear  
Many a rudely-sculptur’d name  
To pensive Memory dear !  
Weaving gay dreams of sunny-tinctur’d hue,  
We glance before his view :  
O’er his hush’d soul our soothing witcheries shed  
And twine the future garland round his head.

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## V

When Evening’s dusky car  
Crown’d with her dewy star  
Steals o’er the fading sky in shadowy flight ;  
On leaves of aspen trees  
We tremble to the breeze  
Veil’d from the grosser ken of mortal sight.  
Or, haply, at the visionary hour,  
Along our wildly-bower’d sequester’d walk,  
We listen to the enamour’d rustic’s talk ;  
Heave with the heavings of the maiden’s breast,  
Where young-eyed Loves have hid their turtle nest ;  
Or guide of soul-subduing power  
The glance that from the half-confessing eye  
Darts the fond question or the soft reply.

35 By rapture-beaming Fancy brought MS. E, MS. 4<sup>o</sup> erased. 37  
Oft woos MS. E : our faery garlands MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, MS. E, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828,  
1829.

53-5 Or at the silent visionary hour  
Along our rude sequester’d walk  
We list th’ enamour’d Shepherd’s talk. MS. E.  
Or at the silent MS. 4<sup>o</sup> erased.

54 wildly-bower’d] wild 1797, 1803. 57 hid] built MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, MS. E,  
1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829. 58 of] with MS. E.

59 The Electric Flash that from the melting eye,  
MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, MS. E, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.

60 or] and MS. E, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.

## VI

Or through the mystic ringlets of the vale  
 We flash our faery feet in gamesome prank ;  
 Or, silent-sandal'd, pay our defter court,  
 Circling the Spirit of the Western Gale,  
 Where wearied with his flower-caressing sport,      65  
 Supine he slumbers on a violet bank ;  
 Then with quaint music hymn the parting gleam  
 By lonely Otter's sleep-persuading stream ;  
 Or where his wave with loud unquiet song  
 Dash'd o'er the rocky channel froths along ;  
 Or where, his silver waters smooth'd to rest,      70  
 The tall tree's shadow sleeps upon his breast.

## VII

Hence thou lingerer, Light !  
 Eve saddens into Night.  
 Mother of wildly-working dreams ! we view      75  
 The sombre hours, that round thee stand  
 With down-cast eyes (a duteous band !)  
 Their dark robes dripping with the heavy dew.  
 Sorceress of the ebon throne !  
 Thy power the Pixies own,      80  
 When round thy raven brow  
 Heaven's lucent roses glow,

61-5 Or haply in the flower-embroider'd vale  
 We ply our faery feet in gamesome prank ;  
 Or pay our wonted court  
 Circling the Spirits of the Western Gale,  
 Where tir'd with vernal sport *MS. E.*

63 Or in *deft* homage pay our silent court *MS. 4° erased.*

68-70 By lonely Otter's 'peace-persuading' stream  
 Or where his frothing wave with merry song  
 'Dash'd o'er the rough rock lightly leaps along' *MS. E.*

68 peace-persuading stream *MS. 4° erased.*

69-70 Or where his waves with loud unquiet song  
 Dash'd o'er the rocky channel froth along  
*MS. 4°, 1796* ('froths' in text, 'froth' errata).

70 froths] froth 1828, 1829.

75-7 Mother of wild'ring dreams thy course pursue.  
 With downcast eyes around thee stand  
 The sombre Hours, a duteous band. *MS. E.*

And clouds in watery colours drest  
 Float in light drapery o'er thy sable vest :  
 What time the pale moon sheds a softer day      85  
 Mellowing the woods beneath its pensive beam :  
 For mid the quivering light 'tis ours to play,  
 Aye dancing to the cadence of the stream.

## VIII

Welcome, Ladies ! to the cell  
 Where the blameless Pixies dwell :      90  
 But thou, Sweet Nymph ! proclaim'd our Faery Queen,  
 With what obeisance meet  
 Thy presence shall we greet ?  
 For lo ! attendant on thy steps are seen  
 Graceful Ease in artless stole,      95  
 And white-robed Purity of soul,  
 With Honour's softer mien ;  
 Mirth of the loosely-flowing hair,  
 And meek-eyed Pity eloquently fair,  
 Whose tearful cheeks are lovely to the view,      100  
 As snow-drop wet with dew.

## IX

Unboastful Maid ! though now the Lily pale  
 Transparent grace thy beauties meek ;  
 Yet ere again along the impurpling vale,  
 The purpling vale and elfin-haunted grove,      105  
 Young Zephyr his fresh flowers profusely throws,  
 We'll tinge with livelier hues thy cheek ;  
 And, haply, from the nectar-breathing Rose  
 Extract a Blush for Love !

1793.

92 obedience MS. 4°, 1796 : Correction made in Errata.  
 around thy MS. E.      97 softer] gentler MS. E.  
 meekest MS. E.      100 cheeks are] cheek is MS. E.

94 For lo !  
 99 meek-eyed]

104-5 Yet ere again the impurpled vale  
 And elfin-haunted grove MS. 4°.

104-6 Yet ere again the purpling vale  
 And elfin-haunted Grove

Young Zephyr with fresh flowrets strews. MS. 4°, MS. E.

108 nectar-breathing] nectar-dropping MS. E.      109 for] of MS. E.

THE ROSE<sup>1</sup>

As late each flower that sweetest blows  
 I pluck'd, the Garden's pride !  
 Within the petals of a Rose  
 A sleeping Love I spied.

Around his brows a beamy wreath  
 Of many a lueent hue ;  
 All purple glow'd his cheek, beneath,  
 Inebriate with dew.

I softly seiz'd the unguarded Power,  
 Nor scared his balmy rest :  
 And placed him, caged within the flower,  
 On spotless Sara's breast.

But when unweeting of the guile  
 Awoke the prisoner sweet,  
 He struggled to escape awhile  
 And stamp'd his faery feet.

Ah ! soon the soul-entrancing sight  
 Subdued the impatient boy !  
 He gazed ! he thrill'd with deep delight !  
 Then clapp'd his wings for joy.

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<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796, included in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. A copy of this poem is written in pencil on the blank page of Langhorne's *Collins*; a note adds, 'This "Effusion" and "Kisses" were addressed to a Miss F. Nesbitt at Plymouth, whither the author accompanied his eldest brother, to whom he was paying a visit, when he was twenty-one years of age.' In a letter to his brother George, dated July 28, 1793, Coleridge writes, 'presented a moss rose to a lady. Dick Hart [George Coleridge's brother-in-law] asked if she was not afraid to put it in her bosom, as, perhaps, there might be love in it. I immediately wrote the following little ode or song or what you please to call it. [The Rose.] It is of the namby-pamby genus.' *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 54.

*The Rose—Title]* On presenting a moss rose to Miss F. Nesbitt. *MS. (pencil).* *Effusion xxvi. 1796.*

5 *beamly]* *lacent MS. E :* lucid *Letter, 1793.* 6 *lacent]* changing *MS. E :* mingled *Letter, 1793.*

12 On lovely Nesbitt's breast. *MS. (pencil).*  
On Angelina's breast. *Letter, 1793.*

On spotless Anna's breast. *MS. E.*

[Probably Anna Buclé, afterwards Mrs. Cruikshank.]

13 But when all reckless *Letter, 1793.* 14 *prisoner]* slumberer *Letter, 1793.* 16 *faery]* angry *Letter, 1793.*

'And O !' he cried—'Of magic kind  
 What charms this Throne endear !  
 Some other Love let Venus find—  
 I'll fix *my* empire *here.*'<sup>1</sup>

1793.

KISSES<sup>2</sup>

CUPID, if storying Legends tell aright,  
 Once fram'd a rich Elixir of Delight.  
 A Chalice o'er love-kindled flames he fix'd,  
 And in it Nectar and Ambrosia mix'd :  
 With these the magic dews which Evening brings,      5  
 Brush'd from the Idalian star by faery wings :  
 Each tender pledge of sacred Faith he join'd,  
 Each gentler Pleasure of th' unspotted mind—

<sup>1</sup> *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. p. 55.<sup>2</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1797 (*Supplement*), 1803, and 1844. Three MSS. are extant, (1) as included in a letter to George Coleridge, Aug. 5, 1793 ; (2) as written in pencil in a copy of Langhorne's *Collins* in 1793 ; (3) *MS. E.*      *Poems*, 1796 (Note 7, p. 181), and footnotes in 1797 and 1803, supply the original Latin :

Effinxit quondam blandum meditata laborem  
 Basia lascivā Cypria Diva manu.  
 Ambrosiae succos occultā temperat arte,  
 Fragransque infuso nectare tingit opus.  
 Sufficit et partem mellis, quod subdolus olim  
 Non impune favis surripisset Amor.  
 Decussos violae foliis admiscet odores  
 Et spolia aestivis plurima rapta rosis.  
 Addit et illecebras et mille et mille lepores,  
 Et quot Acidalius gaudia Cestus habet.  
 Ex his composuit Dea basia ; et omnia libens  
 Invenias nitidae sparsa per ora Cloēs.  
*Carm[ina] Quad[ragesimalia]*, vol. ii.

21-2

'And, O ', he cried, 'What charms refined  
 This magic throne endear *Letter*, 1793, *MS. E.*

23 Another Love may *Letter*, 1793.

*Kisses*—Title] Cupid turn'd Chymist *Letter*, 1793, *Pencil*.   The Compound *MS. E*: Effusion xxvi. 1796: The Composition of a Kiss 1797: Kisses 1803, 1844, 1852.

<sup>1</sup> storying] ancient *Pencil*.      <sup>3</sup> Chalice] cauldron *Letter*, 1793.      18  
 gentler] gentle *Pencil*.

Day-dreams, whose tints with sportive brightness glow,  
And Hope, the blameless parasite of Woe. 10  
The eyeless Chemist heard the process rise,  
The steaming Chalice bubbled up in sighs ;  
Sweet sounds transpired, as when the enamour'd Dove  
Pours the soft murmuring of responsive Love.  
The finish'd work might Envy vainly blame,  
15 And 'Kisses' was the precious Compound's name.  
With half the God his Cyprian Mother blest,  
And breath'd on Sara's lovelier lips the rest.

1793.

THE GENTLE LOOK<sup>1</sup>

THOU gentle Look, that didst my soul beguile,  
Why hast thou left me ? Still in some fond dream  
Revisit my sad heart, auspicious Smile !  
As falls on closing flowers the lunar beam :  
What time, in sickly mood, at parting day 5  
I lay me down and think of happier years ;

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. The 'four last lines' of the Sonnet as sent to Southey, on Dec. 11, 1794, were written by Lamb. *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 111, 112.

9      Gay Dreams whose tints with beamy brightness glow.  
*Letter, 1793, MS. E.*

9-10     And { Hopes the blameless parasites of Woe  
          { Fond Bristol MS.  
        And Dreams whose tints with beamy brightness glow.  
*Pencil, Bristol MS.*

11-12     With joy he view'd his chymic process rise,  
The steaming cauldron bubbled up in sighs. *Letter, 1793.*

11-12     the chymic process rise,  
The steaming chalice *Pencil, MS. E.*

11-12     the chymic process rise,  
The charming cauldron *Bristol MS.*

14      Murmuring] murmurs *Letter, 1793.*  
Cooes the soft murmurs *Pencil.*

15      not Envy's self could blame *Letter, 1793, Pencil.*  
          might blame. *MS. E.*

17      With part *Letter, 1793, MS. E.*

18      on Nesbitt's lovely lips the rest. *Letter, 1793, Pencil.*  
          on Mary's lovelier lips the rest. *MS. E.*  
          on lovely Nesbitt's lovely lips the rest. *Bristol MS.*

*The Gentle Look—Title]* Irregular Sonnet *MS. E*: Effusion xiv. 1796 : Sonnet III. 1797, 1803 : Sonnet viii. 1828, 1829, 1834 : The Smile *P. W.* 1885 : The Gentle Look *P. W.* 1893.

<sup>1</sup> Thou] O *Letter, 1794.*

Of joys, that glimmer'd in Hope's twilight ray,  
 Then left me darkling in a vale of tears.  
 O pleasant days of Hope—for ever gone!  
 Could I recall you!—But that thought is vain.  
 Availeth not Persuasion's sweetest tone

To lure the fleet-wing'd Travellers back again:  
 Yet fair, though faint, their images shall gleam  
 Like the bright Rainbow on a willowy stream.<sup>1</sup>

? 1793.

10

### SONNET<sup>2</sup>

#### TO THE RIVER OTTER

DEAR native Brook! wild Streamlet of the West!

How many various-fated years have past,  
 What happy and what mournful hours, since last  
 I skimm'd the smooth thin stone along thy breast,  
 Numbering its light leaps! yet so deep imprest  
 Sink the sweet scenes of childhood, that mine eyes

5

I never shut amid the sunny ray,  
 But straight with all their tints thy waters rise,  
 Thy crossing plank, thy marge with willows grey,  
 And bedded sand that vein'd with various dyes  
 Gleam'd through thy bright transparence! On my way,  
 Visions of Childhood! oft have ye beguil'd  
 Lone manhood's cares, yet waking fondest sighs:  
 Ah! that once more I were a careless Child!

? 1793.

10

<sup>1</sup> Compare ll. 13, 14 with ll. 13, 14 of *Anna and Harland* and ll. 17, 18 of *Recollection*. *Vide Appendix.*

<sup>2</sup> Lines 2-11 were first published in the *Watchman*, No. V, April 2, 1796, as lines 17-26 of *Recollection*. First published, as a whole, in *Selection of Sonnets*, 1796, included in 1797, 1803, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

9 gone] flown MS. E. 10 you] one Letter, 1794.

13-14 Anon they haste to everlasting Night,  
 Nor can a Giant's arm arrest them in their flight Letter, 1794.  
 On on, &c., MS. E.

*Sonnet*—Title] Sonnet No. IV. To the, &c., 1797, 1803.

3 What blissful and what anguish'd hours *Watchman*, S. S., 1797, 1803.

7 ray] blaze *Watchman*, S. S., 1797, 1803. 8 thy] their S. L. *Corrected in Errata*, p. [xii].

9 The crossing plank, and margin's willowy maze *Watchman*.  
 Thy crossing plank, thy margin's willowy maze

S. S., 1797, 1803.

11 On my way] to the gaze *Watchman*, S. S., 1797, 1803. 14 Ah!  
 that I were once more, &c. S. L. *Corrected in Errata*, p. [xii].

FIRST DRAFT  
 AN EFFUSION AT EVENING  
 WRITTEN IN AUGUST, 1792

IMAGINATION, Mistress of my Love !  
 Where shall mine Eye thy elfin haunt explore ?  
 Dost thou on yon rich Cloud thy pinions bright  
 Embathe in amber-glowing Floods of Light ?  
 Or, wild of speed, pursue the track of Day      5  
 In other worlds to hail the morning Ray ?  
 'Tis time to bid the faded shadowy Pleasures move  
 On shadowy Memory's wings across the Soul of Love ;  
 And thine o'er *Winter's* icy plains to fling  
 Each flower, that binds the breathing Locks of *Spring*, 10  
 When blushing, like a bride, from primrose Bower  
 She starts, awaken'd by the pattering Shower !

Now sheds the setting Sun a purple gleam,  
 Aid, lovely Sorc'ress ! aid the Poet's dream.  
 With faery wand O bid my Love arise,      15  
 The dewy brilliance dancing in her Eyes ;  
 As erst she woke with soul-entrancing Mien  
 The thrill of Joy extatic yet serene,  
 When link'd with Peace I bounded o'er the Plain  
 And Hope itself was all I knew of Pain !      20

Propitious Fancy hears the votive sigh—  
 The absent Maiden flashes on mine Eye !  
 When first the matin Bird with startling Song  
 Salutes the Sun his veiling Clouds among,  
 { accustom'd  
 I trace her footsteps on the steaming Lawn,      25  
 I view her glancing in the gleams of Dawn !  
 When the bent Flower beneath the night-dew weeps  
 And on the Lake the silver Lustre sleeps,  
 Amid the paly Radiance soft and sad  
 She meets my lonely path in moonbeams clad.      30  
 With *her* along the streamlet's brink I rove ;  
 With *her* I list the warblings of the Grove ;  
 And seems in each low wind *her* voice to float,  
 Lone-whispering Pity in each soothing Note !

As oft in climes beyond the western Main  
 Where boundless spreads the wildly-silent Plain,  
 The savage Hunter, who his drowsy frame  
 Had bask'd beneath the Sun's unclouded Flame,  
 Awakes amid the tempest-troubled air,  
 The Thunder's Peal and Lightning's lurid glare—  
 Aghast he hears the rushing Whirlwind's Sweep,  
 And sad recalls the sunny hour of Sleep !  
 So lost by storms along Life's wild'ring Way  
 Mine Eye reverted views that cloudless Day,  
 When,— ! on thy banks I joy'd to rove  
 While Hope with kisses nurs'd the infant Love !

35

40

45

Sweet — ! where Pleasure's streamlet glides  
 Fann'd by soft winds to curl in mimic tides ;  
 Where Mirth and Peace beguile the blameless Day ;  
 And where Friendship's fixt star beams a mellow'd Ray ; 50  
 Where Love a crown of thornless Roses wears ;  
 Where soften'd Sorrow smiles within her tears ;  
 And Memory, with a Vestal's meek employ,  
 Unceasing feeds the lambent flame of Joy !  
 No more thy Sky Larks less'ning from my sight  
 Shall thrill th' attunéd Heartstring with delight ;  
 No more shall deck thy pensive Pleasures sweet  
 With wreaths of sober hue my evening seat !  
 Yet dear to [My] Fancy's Eye thy varied scene  
 Of Wood, Hill, Dale and sparkling Brook between : 60  
 Yet sweet to [My] Fancy's Ear the warbled song,  
 That soars on Morning's wing thy fields among !

55

60

65

Scenes of my Hope ! the aching Eye ye leave,  
 Like those rich Hues that paint the clouds of Eve !  
 Tearful and saddening with theadden'd Blaze  
 Mine Eye the gleam pursues with wistful Gaze—  
 Sees Shades on Shades with deeper tint impend,  
 Till chill and damp the moonless Night descend !

LINES<sup>1</sup>

## ON AN AUTUMNAL EVENING

O thou wild Fancy, check thy wing ! No more  
 Those thin white flakes, those purple clouds explore !  
 Nor there with happy spirits speed thy flight  
 Bath'd in rich amber-glowing floods of light ;  
 Nor in yon gleam, where slow descends the day,      5  
 With western peasants hail the morning ray !  
 Ah ! rather bid the perish'd pleasures move,  
 A shadowy train, across the soul of Love !  
 O'er Disappointment's wintry desert fling  
 Each flower that wreath'd the dewy locks of Spring,      10  
 When blushing, like a bride, from Hope's trim bower  
 She leapt, awaken'd by the pattering shower.

Now sheds the sinking Sun a deeper gleam,  
 Aid, lovely Sorceress ! aid thy Poet's dream !  
 With faery wand O bid the Maid arise,      15  
 Chaste Joyance dancing in her bright-blue eyes ;  
 As erst when from the Muses' calm abode  
 I came, with Learning's meed not unbestowed ;  
 When as she twin'd a laurel round my brow,  
 And met my kiss, and half return'd my vow,      20  
 O'er all my frame shot rapid my thrill'd heart,  
 And every nerve confess'd the electric dart.

O dear Deceit ! I see the Maiden rise,  
 Chaste Joyance dancing in her bright-blue eyes !  
 When first the lark high-soaring swells his throat,      25  
 Mocks the tir'd eye, and scatters the loud note,  
 I trace her footsteps on the accustom'd lawn,  
 I mark her glancing mid the gleam of dawn.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829 and 1834.  
 In *Social Life at the English Universities*, by Christopher Wordsworth, M.A., 1874, it is recorded that this poem was read by Coleridge to a party of college friends on November 7, 1793.

Title] Effusion xxxvi. Written in Early Youth, The Time, An Autumnal Evening 1796 : Written in etc. 1803: An Effusion on an Autumnal Evening. Written in Early Youth 1797 (*Supplement*).

A first draft, headed 'An Effusion at Evening, Written in August, 1792' is included in the MS. volume presented to Mrs. Estlin in April, 1795 (*vide ante*, pp. 49, 50).

28 gleam] gleams 1796, 1797, 1803, 1893.

When the bent flower beneath the night-dew weeps  
 And on the lake the silver lustre sleeps,  
 Amid the paly radiance soft and sad,  
 She meets my lonely path in moon-beams clad.  
 With her along the streamlet's brink I rove;  
 With her I list the warblings of the grove;  
 And seems in each low wind her voice to float  
 Lone-whispering Pity in each soothing note!

Spirits of Love! ye heard her name! Obey  
 The powerful spell, and to my haunt repair.  
 Whether on clust'ring pinions ye are there,  
 Where rich snows blossom on the Myrtle-trees,  
 Or with fond languishment around my fair  
 Sigh in the loose luxuriance of her hair;  
 O heed the spell, and hither wing your way,  
 Like far-off music, voyaging the breeze!

Spirits! to you the infant Maid was given  
 Form'd by the wond'rous Alchemy of Heaven!  
 No fairer Maid does Love's wide empire know,  
 No fairer Maid e'er heav'd the bosom's snow.  
 A thousand Loves around her forehead fly;  
 A thousand Loves sit melting in her eye;  
 Love lights her smile—in Joy's red nectar dips  
 His myrtle flower, and plants it on her lips.  
 She speaks! and hark that passion-warbled song—  
 Still, Fancy! still that voice, those notes prolong.  
 As sweet as when that voice with rapturous falls  
 Shall wake the soften'd echoes of Heaven's Halls!  
 1 O (have I sigh'd) were mine the wizard's rod,  
 Or mine the power of Proteus, changeful God!

<sup>1</sup> Note to line 57. Poems, 1796, pp. 183-5:—I entreat the Public's pardon for having carelessly suffered to be printed such intolerable stuff as this and the thirteen following lines. They have not the merit even of originality: as every thought is to be found in the Greek Epigrams. The lines in this poem from the 27th to the 36th, I have been told are

51-3

in Joy's bright nectar dips  
 The flam'ry rose, and plants it on her lips!  
 Tender, serene, and all devoid of guile,  
 Soft is her soul, as sleeping infants' smile.  
 She speaks, &c. 1796, 1803.

54 still those mazy notes 1796, 1803.

55-6 Sweet as th' angelic harps, whose rapturous falls  
 Awake the soften'd echoes of Heaven's Halls. 1796, 1803.

A flower-entangled Arbour I would seem  
 To shield my Love from Noontide's sultry beam: 60  
 Or bloom a Myrtle, from whose od'rous boughs  
 My Love might weave gay garlands for her brows.  
 When Twilight stole across the fading vale,  
 To fan my Love I'd be the Evening Gale;  
 Mourn in the soft folds of her swelling vest, 65  
 And flutter my faint pinions on her breast!  
 On Seraph wing I'd float a Dream by night,  
 To soothe my Love with shadows of delight:—  
 Or soar aloft to be the Spangled Skies,  
 And gaze upon her with a thousand eyes! 70

As when the Savage, who his drowsy frame  
 Had bask'd beneath the Sun's unclouded flame,  
 Awakes amid the troubles of the air,  
 The skiey deluge, and white lightning's glare—  
 Aghast he scours before the tempest's sweep, 75  
 And sad recalls the sunny hour of sleep:—  
 So tossed by storms along Life's wild'ring way,  
 Mine eye reverted views that cloudless day,

a palpable imitation of the passage from the 355th to the 370th line of the *Pleasures of Memory* Part 3. I do not perceive so striking a similarity between the two passages; at all events I had written the *Effusion* several years before I had seen Mr Rogers' Poem.—It may be proper to remark that the tale of Florio in the '*Pleasures of Memory*' is to be found in *Lochleven*, a poem of great merit by Michael Bruce.—In Mr Rogers' Poem\* the names are Florio and Julia; in the *Lochleven Lomond* and Levina—and this is all the difference. We seize the opportunity of transcribing from the *Lochleven* of Bruce the following exquisite passage, expressing the effects of a fine day on the human heart.

Fat on the plain, and mountain's sunny side  
 Large droves of oxen and the fleecy flocks  
 Feed undisturb'd; and fill the echoing air  
 With Music grateful to their [the] Master's ear.  
 The Traveller stops and gazes round and roun'd  
 O'er all the plains [scenes] that animate his heart  
 With mirth and music. Even the mendicant  
 Bow-bent with age, that on the old gray stone  
 Sole-sitting suns him in the public way,  
 Feels his heart leap, and to himself he sings.

[*Poems by Michael Bruce, 1796, p. 94.*]

\* For Coleridge's retraction of the charge of plagiarism and apology to Rogers see '*Advertisement to Supplement of 1797*', pp. 244, 245.

When by my native brook I wont to rove,  
While Hope with kisses nurs'd the Infant Love.

80

Dear native brook! like Peace, so placidly  
Smoothing through fertile fields thy current meek!  
Dear native brook! where first young Poesy  
Stared wildly-eager in her noontide dream!  
Where blameless pleasures dimple Quiet's cheek,      85  
As water-lilies ripple thy slow stream!  
Dear native haunts! where Virtue still is gay,  
Where Friendship's fix'd star sheds a mellow'd ray,  
Where Love a crown of thornless Roses wears,  
Where soften'd Sorrow smiles within her tears;      90  
And Memory, with a Vestal's chaste employ,  
Unceasing feeds the lambent flame of joy!  
No more your sky-larks melting from the sight  
Shall thrill the attunéd heart-string with delight—  
No more shall deck your pensive Pleasures sweet      95  
With wreaths of sober hue my evening seat.  
Yet dear to Fancy's eye your varied scene  
Of wood, hill, dale, and sparkling brook between!  
Yet sweet to Fancy's ear the warbled song,  
That soars on Morning's wing your vales among.      100

Scenes of my Hope! the aching eye ye leave  
Like yon bright hues that paint the clouds of eve!  
Tearful and saddening with theadden'd blaze  
Mine eye the gleam pursues with wistful gaze:  
Sees shades on shades with deeper tint impend,      105  
Till chill and damp the moonless night descend

1793.

TO FORTUNE<sup>1</sup>

TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'MORNING CHRONICLE'

SIR,—The following poem you may perhaps deem admissible into your journal—if not, you will commit it *εἰς ἵερὸν μένος Ήφαιστοῦ*.—I am, with more respect and gratitude than I ordinarily feel for Editors of Papers, your obliged, &c.,

CANTAB.—S. T. C.

<sup>1</sup> First published, *Morning Chronicle*, Nov. 7, 1793. First collected 1893.

## To FORTUNE

*On buying a Ticket in the Irish Lottery*

Composed during a walk to and from the Queen's Head,  
Gray's Inn Lane, Holborn, and Hornsby's and Co., Cornhill.

PROMPTRESS of unnumber'd sighs,  
O snatch that circling bandage from thine eyes !  
O look, and smile ! No common prayer  
Solicits, Fortune ! thy propitious care !  
For, not a silken son of dress, 5  
I clink the gilded chains of *politesse*,  
Nor ask thy boon what time I scheme  
Unholy Pleasure's frail and feverish dream ;  
Nor yet my view life's *dazzle* blinds—  
Pomp !—Grandeur ! Power !—I give you to the winds ! 10  
Let the little bosom cold  
Melt only at the sunbeam ray of gold—  
My pale cheeks glow—the big drops start—  
The rebel *Feeling* riots at my heart !  
And if in lonely durance pent, 15  
Thy poor mite mourn a brief imprisonment—  
That mite at Sorrow's faintest sound  
Leaps from its scrip with an elastic bound !  
But oh ! if ever song thine ear  
Might soothe, O haste with fost'ring hand to rear 20  
One Flower of Hope ! At Love's behest,  
Trembling, I plac'd it in my secret breast :  
And thrice I've view'd the vernal gleam,  
Since oft mine eye, with Joy's electric beam,  
Illum'd it—and its sadder hue 25  
Oft moisten'd with the Tear's ambrosial dew !  
Poor wither'd floweret ! on its head  
Has dark Despair his sickly mildew shed !  
But thou, O Fortune ! canst relume  
Its deaden'd tints—and thou with hardier bloom 30  
May'st haply tinge its beauties pale,  
And yield the unsunn'd stranger to the western gale !

PERSPIRATION. A TRAVELLING ECLOGUE<sup>1</sup>

THE dust flies smothering, as on clatt'ring wheel  
 Loath'd Aristocracy careers along ;  
 The distant track quick vibrates to the eye,  
 And white and dazzling undulates with heat,  
 Where scorching to the unwary traveller's touch,      5  
 The stone fence flings its narrow slip of shade ;  
 Or, where the worn sides of the chalky road  
 Yield their scant excavations (sultry grots !),  
 Emblem of languid patience, we behold  
 The fleecy files faint-ruminating lie.      10

1794.

[AVE, ATQUE VALE!]<sup>2</sup>

VIVIT sed mihi non vivit—nova forte marita,  
 Ah dolor ! alterius carâ a cervice pependit.  
 Vos, malefida valete accensae insomnia mentis,  
 Littora amata valete ! Vale, ah ! formosa Maria !

1794.

ON BALA HILL<sup>3</sup>

WITH many a weary step at length I gain  
 Thy summit, Bala ! and the cool breeze plays  
 Cheerily round my brow—as hence the gaze  
 Returns to dwell upon the journey'd plain.

'Twas a long way and tedious!—to the eye      5  
 Tho' fair th' extended Vale, and fair to view  
 The falling leaves of many a faded hue  
 That eddy in the wild gust moaning by !

Ev'n so it far'd with Life ! in discontent  
 Restless thro' Fortune's mingled scenes I went,      10

<sup>1</sup> First published, *Letters of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*, 1895, i. 73, 74. The lines were sent in a letter to Southey, dated July 6, 1794.

<sup>2</sup> First published, *Biog. Lit.* 1847, Biog. Supplement, ii. 340. This Latin quatrain was sent in a letter to Southey, dated July 13, 1794.

<sup>3</sup> First published (as Coleridge's) in 1893, from an unsigned autograph MS. found among the Evans Papers. The lines are all but identical with Southey's Sonnet to Lansdown Hill (Sonnet viii), dated 1794, and first published in 1797, and were, probably, his composition. See *Athenaeum*, Jaunuary 11, 1896.

*On Bala Hill.*    2 Bala] *Lansdown Poems*, 1797.

3 Cheerily] *Gratefully Poems*, 1797.

Yet wept to think they would return no more!  
 O cease fond heart! in such sad thoughts to roam,  
 For surely thou ere long shalt reach thy home,  
 And pleasant is the way that lies before.

1794.

LINES<sup>1</sup>

WRITTEN AT THE KING'S ARMS, ROSS, FORMERLY THE HOUSE OF  
 THE 'MAN OF ROSS'

RICHER than Miser o'er his countless hoards,  
 Nobler than Kings, or king-polluted Lords,  
 Here dwelt the MAN OF ROSS! O Traveller, hear!  
 Departed Merit claims a reverent tear.  
 Friend to the friendless, to the sick man health,      5  
 With generous joy he view'd his modest wealth;  
 He heard the widow's heaven-breath'd prayer of praise,  
 He mark'd the shelter'd orphan's tearful gaze,  
 Or where the sorrow-shrivell'd captive lay,  
 Pour'd the bright blaze of Freedom's noon-tide ray.      10

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Cambridge Intelligencer*, September 27, 1794: included in *A Pedestrian Tour through North Wales*. By J. Hucks, 1795, p. 15: 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

In a letter to Southey dated July 13, 1794, Coleridge writes:—'At Ross . . . we took up our quarters at the King's Arms, once the house of Kyrle, the Man of Ross. I gave the window-shutter the following effusion—"Richer than Misers" etc.' J. Hucks, in his *Tour*, 1795, p. 15, writes to the same effect. There are but slight variations in the text as printed in the *Cambridge Intelligencer* and in Hucks' *Tour*. In 1796 lines 5–10 of the text, which were included in *A Monody on the Death of Chatterton* (1796), are omitted, and the poem numbered only fourteen lines. In 1797 lines 5–10 were restored to the *Man of Ross* and omitted from the *Monody*. The poem numbered twenty lines. In 1803 lines 5–10 were again omitted from the *Man of Ross*, but not included in the *Monody*. The poem numbered fourteen lines. The text of 1828, 1829 is almost identical with that of 1834.

Four MS. versions are extant, (1) the Letter to Southey, July 13, 1794: (2) the Estlin Copy-book: (3) the Morrison MSS.: (4) the MS. 4<sup>o</sup> Copy-book.

12 O] But Poems, 1797.

Lines—Title] Written . . . Mr. Kyrle, 'the Man of Ross'. MS. E.

1 Misers o'er their Letter, 1794, J. H., MS. E, 1803.      4 the glistening tear Letter, 1794: a] the J. H., MS. E. Lines 5–10 are not in MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, 1796, 1803; in 1797 they follow l. 14 of the text.      5 to the poor man wealth, Morrison MSS.      7 heard] hears 1797, 1828, 1829.      8 mark'd] marks 1797, 1828.

9 And o'er the dowried maiden's glowing cheek, Letter, 1794, Morrison MSS.: virgin's snowy cheek, J. H., MS. E.      10 Bade bridal love suffuse its blushes meek. Letter, 1794, MS. E, Morrison MSS. Pour'd] Pours 1797, 1828, 1829.

Beneath this roof if thy cheer'd moments pass,  
 Fill to the good man's name one grateful glass:  
 To higher zest shall Memory wake thy soul,  
 And Virtue mingle in the ennobled bowl.  
 But if, like me, through Life's distressful scene  
15  
 Lonely and sad thy pilgrimage hath been ;  
 And if thy breast with heart-sick anguish fraught,  
 Thou journeyest onward tempest-tossed in thought ;  
 Here cheat thy cares ! in generous visions melt,  
 And *dream* of Goodness, thou hast never felt !

1794.

20

IMITATED FROM THE WELSH<sup>1</sup>

If while my passion I impart,  
 You deem my words untrue,  
 O place your hand upon my heart—  
 Feel how it throbs for *you* !  
 Ah no ! reject the thoughtless claim  
5  
 In pity to your Lover !  
 That thrilling touch would aid the flame  
 It wishes to discover.

? 1794.

5

LINES<sup>2</sup>

## TO A BEAUTIFUL SPRING IN A VILLAGE

ONCE more ! sweet Stream ! with slow foot wandering near,  
 I bless thy milky waters cold and clear.  
 Escap'd the flashing of the noontide hours,  
 With one fresh garland of Pierian flowers  
 (Ere from thy zephyr-haunted brink I turn)  
5  
 My languid hand shall wreath thy mossy urn.  
 For not through pathless grove with murmur rude  
 Thou soothest the sad wood-nymph, Solitude ;  
 Nor thine unseen in cavern depths to well,  
 The Hermit-fountain of some dripping cell !

10

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1796 : included in *Annual Register*, 1796 : 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

11 If 'neath this roof thy wine cheer'd moments pass *Letter*, J. H., MS. E, MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, 1803. 14 ennobled] sparkling *Letter*, 1794. 15 me] mine 1803.

*Imitated, &c.—Title*] Song MS. E : Effusion xxxi. Imitated &c., 1796.

*Lines—Title*] Lines addressed to a Spring in Village of Kirkhampton near Bath MS. E.

7 groves in murmurs MS. E.

Pride of the Vale ! thy useful streams supply  
 The scatter'd cots and peaceful hamlet nigh.  
 The elfin tribe around thy friendly banks  
 With infant uproar and soul-soothing pranks,  
 Releas'd from school, their little hearts at rest,      15  
 Launch paper navies on thy waveless breast.  
 The rustic here at eve with pensive look  
 Whistling lorn ditties leans upon his crook,  
 Or, starting, pauses with hope-mingled dread  
 To list the much-lov'd maid's accustom'd tread :      20  
 She, vainly mindful of her dame's command,  
 Loiters, the long-fill'd pitcher in her hand.

Unboastful Stream ! thy fount with pebbled falls  
 The faded form of past delight recalls,  
 What time the morning sun of Hope arose,      25  
 And all was joy ; save when another's woes  
 A transient gloom upon my soul imprest,  
 Like passing clouds impictur'd on thy breast.  
 Life's current then ran sparkling to the noon,  
 Or silvery stole beneath the pensive Moon :      30  
 Ah ! now it works rude brakes and thorns among,  
 Or o'er the rough rock bursts and foams along !

1794.

## IMITATIONS

AD LYRAM<sup>1</sup>

(CASIMIR, BOOK II. ODE 3)

THE solemn-breathing air is ended—  
 Cease, O Lyre ! thy kindred lay !  
 From the poplar-branch suspended  
 Glitter to the eye of Day !

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Watchman*, No. II, March 9, 1796 : included in *Literary Remains*, 1836, I. 41-3. First collected in 1844.

21-2 And now essays his simple Faith to prove  
 By all the soft solicitudes of Love. MS. E.

30 Or silver'd its smooth course beneath the Moon. MS. 4<sup>v</sup>.      31  
 rude] the thorny MS. 4<sup>v</sup> erased.

For ll. 29-32 But ah ! too brief in Youths' enchanting reign,  
 Ere Manhood wakes th' unweeting heart to pain,  
 Silent and soft thy silver waters glide :  
 So glided Life, a smooth and equal Tide.  
 Sad Change ! for now by choking Cares withstood  
 It hardly bursts its way, a turbid, boist'rous Flood! MS. E.  
 Ad Lyram—Title] Song. [Note. Imitated from Casimir.] MS. E.

5

On thy wires hov'ring, dying,  
Softly sighs the summer wind :  
I will slumber, careless lying,  
By yon waterfall reclin'd.

In the forest hollow-roaring  
Hark ! I hear a deep'ning sound—  
Clouds rise thick with heavy low'ring !  
See ! th' horizon blackens round !

Parent of the soothing measure,  
Let me seize thy wetted string !  
Swiftly flies the flatterer, Pleasure,  
Headlong, ever on the wing.<sup>1</sup>

1794.

10

15

TO LESBIA<sup>2</sup>

Vivamus, mea Lesbia, atque amemus.

CATULLUS.

My Lesbia, let us love and live,  
And to the winds, my Lesbia, give

<sup>1</sup> If we except Lucretius and Statius, I know not of any Latin poet, ancient or modern, who has equalled Casimir in boldness of conception, opulence of fancy, or beauty of versification. The Odes of this illustrious Jesuit were translated into English about 150 years ago, by a Thomas Hill, I think. [—by G. H. [G. Hils.] London, 1646. 12mo. *Ed. L. R.* 1836.] I never saw the translation. A few of the Odes have been translated in a very animated manner by Watts. I have subjoined the third ode of the second book, which, with the exception of the first line, is an effusion of exquisite elegance. In the imitation attempted, I am sensible that I have destroyed the *effect of suddenness*, by translating into two stanzas what is one in the original.

## AD LYRAM.

Sonori buxi Filia sutilis,  
Pendebis alta, Barbite, populo,  
Dum ridet aer, et supinas  
Solicitat levis aura frondes :  
Te sibilantis lenior halitus  
Perflabit Euri : me iuvet interim  
Collum reclinasse, et virenti  
Sic temere iacuisse ripa.  
Eheu ! serenum quae nebulae tegunt  
Repente caelum ! quis sonus imbrium !  
Surgamus—heu semper fugaci  
Gaudia praeteritura passu !

'Advertisement' to *Ad Lyram*, in *Watchman*, II, March 9, 1796.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, April 11, 1798: included in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 274. First collected in *P. W.*, 1893.

Each cold restraint, each boding fear  
Of age and all her saws severe.  
Yon sun now posting to the main  
Will set,—but 'tis to rise again ;—  
But we, when once our mortal light  
Is set, must sleep in endless night.  
Then come, with whom alone I'll live,  
A thousand kisses take and give !  
Another thousand!—to the store  
Add hundreds—then a thousand more !  
And when they to a million mount,  
Let confusion take the account,—  
That you, the number never knowing,  
May continue still bestowing—  
That I for joys may never pine,  
Which never can again be mine !

? 1794.

THE DEATH OF THE STARLING<sup>1</sup>

Lugete, O Veneres, Cupidinesque.—CATULLUS.

Pity! mourn in plaintive tone  
The lovely starling dead and gone!  
Pity mourns in plaintive tone  
The lovely starling dead and gone.  
Weep, ye Loves! and Venus! weep  
The lovely starling fall'n asleep!  
Venus sees with tearful eyes—  
In her lap the starling lies!  
While the Loves all in a ring  
Softly stroke the stiffen'd wing.

? 1794.

MORIENS SUPERSTITI<sup>2</sup>

THE hour-bell sounds, and I must go;  
Death waits—again I hear him calling ;—  
No cowardly desires have I,  
Nor will I shun his face appalling.

<sup>1</sup> First published, *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 274. First collected, *P. W.*, 1893. The titles 'Lesbia' and 'The Death of the Starling' first appear in 1893.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, May 10, 1798, with a prefatory note :—'The two following verses from the French, never before published, were written by a French Prisoner as he was preparing to go to the Guillotine': included in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 275. First collected *P. W.*, 1893.

To Lesbia 4 her] its L. R.

7 mortal] little L. R.

18 signed

Mortimer M. P.

The Death &c. 7 sees] see L. R.

I die in faith and honour rich—  
But ah ! I leave behind my treasure  
In widowhood and lonely pain ;—  
To live were surely then a pleasure !

My lifeless eyes upon thy face  
Shall never open more to-morrow ;  
To-morrow shall thy beauteous eyes  
Be closed to Love, and drown'd in Sorrow ;  
To-morrow Death shall freeze this hand,  
And on thy breast, my wedded treasure,  
I never, never more shall live ;—  
Alas ! I quit a life of pleasure.

5

10

15

## MORIENTI SUPERSTES

YET art thou happier far than she  
Who feels the widow's love for thee !  
For while her days are days of weeping,  
Thou, in peace, in silence sleeping,  
In some still world, unknown, remote,  
The mighty parent's care hast found,  
Without whose tender guardian thought  
No sparrow falleth to the ground.

5

? 1794.

THE SIGH<sup>1</sup>

WHEN Youth his faery reign began  
Ere Sorrow had proclaim'd me man ;  
While Peace the present hour beguil'd,  
And all the lovely Prospect smil'd ;  
Then Mary ! 'mid my lightsome glee  
I heav'd the painless Sigh for thee.

5

And when, along the waves of woe,  
My harass'd Heart was doom'd to know  
The frantic burst of Outrage keen,  
And the slow Pang that gnaws unseen ;

10

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829. Coleridge dated the poem, June 1794, but the verses as sent to Southey, in a letter dated November, 1794 (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 100, 101), could not have taken shape before the August of that year, after the inception of Pantisocracy and his engagement to Sarah Fricker.

*The Sigh—Title]* Ode MS. E : Song Letter, Nov. 1794, Morrison MSS. : Effusion xxxii : The Sigh 1796.

<sup>7</sup> along th' ] as tossed on 1803.  
<sup>9</sup> of] the 1803.

waves] wilds Letter, 1794, MS. E.

Then shipwreck'd on Life's stormy sea  
 I heaved an anguish'd Sigh for thee !  
 But soon Reflection's power imprest  
 A stiller sadness on my breast ;  
 And sickly Hope with waning eye      15  
 Was well content to droop and die :  
 I yielded to the stern decree,  
 Yet heav'd a languid Sigh for thee !  
 And though in distant climes to roam,  
 A wanderer from my native home,      20  
 I fain would soothe the sense of Care,  
 And lull to sleep the Joys that were !  
 Thy Image may not banish'd be—  
 Still, Mary ! still I sigh for thee.

1794.

THE KISS<sup>1</sup>

ONE kiss, dear Maid ! I said and sigh'd—  
 Your scorn the little boon denied.  
 Ah why refuse the blameless bliss ?  
 Can danger lurk within a kiss ?

Yon viewless wanderer of the vale,      5  
 The Spirit of the Western Gale,  
 At Morning's break, at Evening's close  
 Inhales the sweetness of the Rose,  
 And hovers o'er the uninjur'd bloom  
 Sighing back the soft perfume.      10  
 Vigour to the Zephyr's wing  
 Her nectar-breathing kisses fling ;

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

13 power] hand *Letter*, Nov. 1794, MS. E.      18 a] the *Letter*, 1794.

21-2 I fain would woo a gentle Fair  
 To soothe the aching sense of Care *Letter*, Nov. 1794.

21 sense of] aching MS. E.      Below l. 24 June 1794 *Poems*, 1796.

*The Kiss*—Title] Ode MS. E : Effusion xxviii 1796 : The Kiss 1797, 1828, 1829, 1834 : To Sara 1803. MSS. of The Kiss are included in the Estlin volume and in S. T. C.'s quarto copy-book.

11-15 Vigor to his languid wing  
 The Rose's fragrant kisses bring,  
 And He o'er all her brighten'd hue  
 Flings the glitter of the dew.  
 See she bends her bashful head. MS. E.

And He the glitter of the Dew  
 Scatters on the Rose's hue.  
 Bashful lo! she bends her head,  
 And darts a blush of deeper Red !

Too well those lovely lips disclose  
 The triumphs of the opening Rose ;  
 O fair ! O graceful ! bid them prove  
 As passive to the breath of Love.

In tender accents, faint and low,  
 Well-pleas'd I hear the whisper'd 'No !'  
 The whispered 'No'—how little meant !  
 Sweet Falsehood that endears Consent !

For on those lovely lips the while  
 Dawns the soft relenting smile,  
 And tempts with feign'd dissuasion coy  
 The gentle violence of Joy.

? 1794.

15

20

25

TO A YOUNG LADY<sup>1</sup>

WITH A POEM ON THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

MUCH on my early youth I love to dwell,  
 Ere yet I bade that friendly dome farewell,  
 Where first, beneath the echoing cloisters pale,  
 I heard of guilt and wonder'd at the tale !

Yet though the hours flew by on careless wing,  
 Full heavily of Sorrow would I sing.      5

Aye as the Star of Evening flung its beam  
 In broken radiance on the wavy stream,  
 My soul amid the pensive twilight gloom  
 Mourn'd with the breeze, O Lee Boo !<sup>2</sup> o'er thy tomb.      10

<sup>1</sup> First published in *The Watchman*, No. I, March 1, 1796 : included in 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. Three MSS. are extant : (1) the poem as sent to Southey in a letter dated Oct. 21, 1794 (see *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1855, i. 94, 95) ; (2) the Estlin volume ; (3) the MS. 4<sup>o</sup> copy-book.

<sup>2</sup> Lee Boo, the son of Abba Thule, Prince of the Pelew Islands, came over to England with Captain Wilson, died of the small-pox, and is

13-14 And He o'er all her brighten'd hue  
 Sheds the glitter of the dew. MS. 4<sup>o</sup> erased.

18 The fragrant triumphs of the Rose. MS. E.      26 Dawns]  
 Dawn'd MS. E.      27 And] That MS. E.

To a Young Lady—Title] Verses addressed to a Lady with a poem relative to a recent event in the French Revolution MS. E.

2 friendly] guardian MS. Letter, 1794, MS. E.      3 cloisters]  
 cloister MS. E.      5 careless] rosy MS. E.      9 My pensive soul amid  
 the twilight gloom MS. Letter, 1794.      10 Boo] Bo MS. E.

Where'er I wander'd, Pity still was near,  
 Breath'd from the heart and glisten'd in the tear:  
 No knell that toll'd but fill'd my anxious eye,  
 And suffering Nature wept that *one* should die!<sup>1</sup>

Thus to sad sympathies I sooth'd my breast,      15  
 Calm, as the rainbow in the weeping West:  
 When slumbering Freedom roused by high Disdain  
 With giant Fury burst her triple chain!

Fierce on her front the blasting Dog-star glow'd;  
 Her banners, like a midnight meteor, flow'd;      20  
 Amid the yelling of the storm-rent skies!  
 She came, and scatter'd battles from her eyes!  
 Then Exultation waked the patriot fire  
 And swept with wild hand the Tyrtæan lyre:  
 Red from the Tyrant's wound I shook the lance,      25  
 And strode in joy the reeking plains of France!

Fallen is the Oppressor, friendless, ghastly, low,  
 And my heart aches, though Mercy struck the blow.  
 With wearied thought once more I seek the shade,  
 Where peaceful Virtue weaves the Myrtle braid.      30

And O! if Eyes whose holy glances roll,  
 Swift messengers, and eloquent of soul;

buried in Greenwich churchyard. See Keate's *Account of the Pelew Islands.*  
 1788.

<sup>1</sup> And suffering Nature, &c. Southeys *Retrospect*.

'When eager patriots fly the news to spread  
 Of glorious conquest, and of thousands dead;  
 All feel the mighty glow of victor joy—  
 \*     \*     \*     \*     \*     \*

But if extended on the gory plain,  
 And, snatch'd in conquest, some lov'd friend be slain,  
 Affection's tears will dim the sorrowing eye,  
 And suffering Nature grieve that one should die.'

From the *Retrospect* by Robert Southeys, published by Dilly [1795, pp. 9, 10]. MS. 4<sup>o</sup>.

12 glisten'd] glitter'd MS. Letter, 1794.      13 anxious] anguish'd MS. Letter, 1794.      16 Calm] Bright MS. E.      17 by] with 1829.      23 waked] woke MS. Letter, 1794, MS. E.      24 with wilder hand th' empassion'd lyre MS. Letter, 1794: with wilder hand th' Alcaean lyre MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, MS. E, *Watchman*, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.      25 wound] wounds MS. Letter, 1794.      27 In ghastly horror lie th' Oppressors low MS. Letter, 1794, MS. E, MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, 1796, *Watchman*.      29 With sad and wearied thought I seek the shade MS. E: With wearied thought I seek the amaranth shade MS. Letter, 1794.      30 the] her MS. Letter, 1794, MS. E.      32 The eloquent messengers of the pure soul MS. Letter, 1794, MS. E, MS. 4<sup>o</sup>, *Watchman*, 1796.

If Smiles more winning, and a gentler Mien  
 Than the love-wilder'd Maniac's brain hath seen  
 Shaping celestial forms in vacant air,  
 If these demand the empulsion'd Poet's care—  
 If Mirth and soften'd Sense and Wit refined,  
 The blameless features of a lovely mind ;  
 Then haply shall my trembling hand assign  
 No fading wreath to Beauty's saintly shrine.  
 Nor, Sara ! thou these early flowers refuse—  
 Ne'er lurk'd the snake beneath their simple hues ;  
 No purple bloom the Child of Nature brings  
 From Flattery's night-shade : as he feels he sings.

*September 1794.*

35

40

### TRANSLATION<sup>1</sup>

OF WRANGHAM'S 'HENDECASYLLABI AD BRUNTONAM  
 E GRANTA EXITURAM' [KAL. OCT. MDCCXC]

MAID of unboastful charms ! whom white-robed Truth  
 Right onward guiding through the maze of youth,  
 Forbade the Circe Praise to witch thy soul,  
 And dash'd to earth th' intoxicating bowl :  
 Thee meek-eyed Pity, eloquently fair,  
 Clasp'd to her bosom with a mother's care ;  
 And, as she lov'd thy kindred form to trace,  
 The slow smile wander'd o'er her pallid face.

5

For never yet did mortal voice impart  
 Tones more congenial to the sadden'd heart :  
 Whether, to rouse the sympathetic glow,

10

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Poems*, by Francis Wrangham, London, 1795, pp. 79-83. First collected in *P. and D. W.*, 1880, ii. 360\* (*Supplement*).

33 winning] cunning *MS. Letter, 1794.*      36 empulsion'd] wond'ring  
*MS. Letter, 1794.*      40 wreath] flowers *MS. Letter, 1794, MS. E.*

41-4      Nor, Brunton ! thou the blushing wreath refuse,  
 Though harsh her notes, yet guileless is my Muse.  
 Unwont at Flattery's Voice to plume her wings,  
 A Child of Nature, as she feels she sings. *MS. Letter, 1794.*  
 Nor— ! thou the blushing wreath refuse  
 Tho' harsh her song, yet guileless is the Muse.  
 Unwont &c. *MS. E.*

42-4      No Serpent lurks beneath their simple hues.  
 No purple blooms from Flattery's nightshade brings,  
 The Child of Nature—as he feels he sings. *MS. 40 erased.*

43-4      Nature's pure Child from Flatt'ry's night-shade brings  
 No blooms rich-purpling : as he feels he sings. *MS. 40.*

*Below l. 44 September, 1794 1797, 1803 : September 1792 1828, 1829, 1834.*

Thou pourest lone Monimia's tale of woe ;  
 Or haply clothest with funereal vest  
 The bridal loves that wept in Juliet's breast.  
 O'er our chill limbs the thrilling Terrors creep,  
 Th' entrancéd Passions their still vigil keep ;  
 While the deep sighs, responsive to the song,  
 Sound through the silence of the trembling throng.

But purer raptures lighten'd from thy face,  
 And spread o'er all thy form an holier grace,  
 When from the daughter's breasts the father drew  
 The life he gave, and mix'd the big tear's dew.  
 Nor was it thine th' heroic strain to roll  
 With mimic feelings foreign from the soul :  
 Bright in thy parent's eye we mark'd the tear ;  
 Methought he said, ' Thou art no Actress here !  
 A semblance of thyself the *Grecian* dame,  
 And Brunton and Euphrasia still the same ! '

O soon to seek the city's busier scene,  
 Pause thee awhile, thou chaste-eyed maid serene,  
 Till Granta's sons from all her sacred bowers  
 With grateful hand shall weave Pierian flowers  
 To twine a fragrant chaplet round thy brow,  
 Enchanting mistress of virtuous woe !

1794.

TO MISS BRUNTON<sup>1</sup>

WITH THE PRECEDING TRANSLATION

THAT darling of the Tragic Muse,  
 When Wrangham sung her praise,  
 Thalia lost her rosy hues,  
 And sicken'd at her lays :  
 But transient was th' unwonted sigh ;  
 For soon the Goddess spied  
 A sister-form of mirthful eye,  
 And danc'd for joy and cried :  
 ' Meek Pity's sweetest child, proud dame,  
 The fates have given to you !  
 Still bid your Poet boast her name ;  
 I have my Brunton too.'

1794.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Poems*, by Francis Wrangham, 1795, p. 83. First collected in *P. and D. W.*, 1880, ii. 362\* (*Supplement*).

EPITAPH ON AN INFANT<sup>1</sup>  
 ERE Sin could blight or Sorrow fade,  
 Death came with friendly care:  
 The opening Bud to Heaven convey'd,  
 And bade it blossom *there*.

1795.

PANTISOCRACY<sup>2</sup>

No more my visionary soul shall dwell  
 On joys that were; no more endure to weigh  
 The shame and anguish of the evil day,  
 Wisely forgetful! O'er the ocean swell

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Chronicle*, September 24, 1794: included in *The Watchman*, No. IX, May 5, 1796, *Poems* 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. These well-known lines, which vexed the soul of Charles Lamb, were probably adapted from 'An Epitaph on an Infant' in the churchyard of Birchington, Kent (*A Collection of Epitaphs*, 1806, i. 219) :—

Ah! why so soon, just as the bloom appears,  
 Drops the fair blossom in the vale of tears?  
 Death view'd the treasure in the desert given  
 And claim'd the right of planting it in Heav'n.

In *MS. E* a Greek version (possibly a rejected prize epigram) is prefixed with the accompanying footnote.

Ηλυθες εις αιδην, καὶ δή τυ ποθεύσαι τοκης.  
 Ηλυθες αὖ βρεφος! τοι βραχν δυνε φαος.  
 Ομμα μεν εις σεο σῆμα Πατηρ πικρον ποτιβαλλει  
 Ευσεβεης δε Θεω δωρα διδωσιν έα! \*

\* Translation of the Greek Epitaph. 'Thou art gone down into the Grave, and heavily do thy Parents feel the Loss. Thou art gone down into the Grave, sweet Baby! Thy short Light is set! Thy Father casts an Eye of Anguish towards thy Tomb—yet with uncomplaining Piety resigns to God his own Gift!'

Equal or Greater simplicity marks all the writings of the Greek Poets.—The above [i.e. the Greek] Epitaph was written in Imitation of them. [S. T. C.]

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Life and Correspondence of R. Southey*, 1849, i. 224. First collected 1852 (Notes). Southey includes the sonnet in a letter to his brother Thomas dated Oct. 19, 1794, and attributes the authorship to Coleridge's friend S. Favell, with whom he had been in correspondence. He had already received the sonnet in a letter from Coleridge (dated Sept. 18, 1794), who claims it for his own and apologizes for the badness of the poetry. The octave was included (ll. 129-36) in the second version of the *Monody on the Death of Chatterton*, first printed in Lancelot Sharpe's edition of the *Poems* of Chatterton published at Cambridge in 1794. Mrs. H. N. Coleridge (*Poems*, 1852, p. 382) prints the sonnet and apologizes for the alleged plagiarism. It is difficult to believe that either the first eight or last six lines of the sonnet were not written by Coleridge. It is included in the *MS.* volume of Poems which Coleridge presented to Mrs. Estlin in 1795. The text is that of *Letter Sept. 18, 1794.*

Sublime of Hope, I seek the cottag'd dell  
 Where Virtue calm with careless step may stray,  
 And dancing to the moonlight roundelay,  
 The wizard Passions weave an holy spell.  
 Eyes that have ach'd with Sorrow ! Ye shall weep  
 Tears of doubt-mingled joy, like theirs who start  
 From Precipices of distemper'd sleep,  
 On which the fierce-eyed Fiends their revels keep,  
 And see the rising Sun, and feel it dart  
 New rays of pleasance trembling to the heart.

1795.

### ON THE PROSPECT OF ESTABLISHING A PANTISOCRACY IN AMERICA<sup>1</sup>

WHILST pale Anxiety, corrosive Care,  
 The tear of Woe, the gloom of sad Despair,  
 And deepen'd Anguish generous bosoms rend ;—  
 Whilst patriot souls their country's fate lament ;  
 Whilst mad with rage demoniac, foul intent,  
 Embattled legions Despots vainly send  
 To arrest the immortal mind's expanding ray  
 Of everlasting Truth ;—I other climes  
 Where dawns, with hope serene, a brighter day  
 Than e'er saw Albion in her happiest times,  
 With mental eye exulting now explore,  
 And soon with kindred minds shall haste to enjoy  
 (Free from the ills which here our peace destroy)  
 Content and Bliss on Transatlantic shore.

1795.

### ELEGY<sup>2</sup>

IMITATED FROM ONE OF AKENSIDE'S BLANK-VERSE  
INSCRIPTIONS [(No.) III.]

NEAR the lone pile with ivy overspread,  
 Fast by the rivulet's sleep-persuading sound,

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Co-operative Magazine and Monthly Herald*, March 6, 1826, and reprinted in the *Athenaeum*, Nov. 5, 1904. First collected in 1907. It has been conjectured, but proof is wanting, that the sonnet was written by Coleridge.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Chronicle*, September 23, 1794 : included in *The Watchman*, No. III, March 17, 1794 : in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817 : 1828, 1829, and 1834, but omitted in 1852 as of doubtful origin.

Pantisocracy. 8 Passions weave] Passion wears *Letter*, Oct. 19 1794, 1852.

9 Sorrow] anguish *Letter*, Oct. 19 1794, 1852. 10 like theirs] as those

*Letter*, Oct. 19 1794, 1852 : as they, *MS. E.* 13 feel] find *Letter*, Oct. 19 1794, 1852.

14 pleasure] pleasure *Letter*, Oct. 19 1794, 1852.

Elegy—Title] An Elegy *Morning Chronicle*, *Watchman*. 1 the] yon *M. C.*

Where 'sleeps the moonlight' on yon verdant bed—  
O humbly press that consecrated ground !

For there does Edmund rest, the learnéd swain !

5

And there his spirit most delights to rove :

Young Edmund ! fam'd for each harmonious strain,  
And the sore wounds of ill-requited Love.

Like some tall tree that spreads its branches wide,

And loads the West-wind with its soft perfume,

10

His manhood blossom'd ; till the faithless pride  
Of fair Matilda sank him to the tomb.

But soon did righteous Heaven her Guilt pursue !

Where'er with wilder'd step she wander'd pale,

Still Edmund's image rose to blast her view,

15

Still Edmund's voice accus'd her in each gale.

With keen regret, and conscious Guilt's alarms,

Amid the pomp of Affluence she pined ;

Nor all that lur'd her faith from Edmund's arms

Could lull the wakeful horror of her mind.

20

Go, Traveller ! tell the tale with sorrow fraught :

Some tearful Maid perchance, or blooming Youth,

May hold it in remembrance ; and be taught

That Riches cannot pay for Love or Truth.

? 1794.

### THE FADED FLOWER<sup>1</sup>

UNGRATEFUL he, who pluck'd thee from thy stalk,

Poor faded flow'ret ! on his careless way ;

Inhal'd awhile thy odours on his walk,

Then onward pass'd and left thee to decay.

Ah ! melancholy emblem ! had I seen

5

Thy modest beauties dew'd with Evening's gem,

I had not rudely cropp'd thy parent stem,

But left thee, blushing, 'mid the enliven'd green

And now I bend me o'er thy wither'd bloom,

The elegy as printed in the *Morning Chronicle* is unsigned. In *The Watchman* it is signed T.

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Monthly Magazine*, August, 1836. First collected in *P. W.*, 1893.

6 And there his pale-eyed phantom loves to rove M. C. 10 West-wind] Zephyr M. C. 11 till] ere M. C. 12 Lucinda sunk M. C. 13 Guilt] crime M. C. 14 step] steps M. C. 17 remorse and tortur'd Guilt's M. C. 20 Could soothe the conscious horrors of her mind M. C. horror] horrors *The Watchman.* 22 tearful] lovely M. C.

And drop the tear—as Fancy, at my side,  
Deep-sighing, points the fair frail Abra's tomb—  
'Like thine, sad Flower, was that poor wanderer's pride!  
Oh! lost to Love and Truth, whose selfish joy  
Tasted her vernal sweets, but tasted to destroy!'  
1794.

THE OUTCAST<sup>1</sup>

PALE Roamer through the night! thou poor Forlorn!  
Remorse that man on his death-bed possess,  
Who in the credulous hour of tenderness  
Betrayed, then cast thee forth to Want and Scorn!  
The world is pitiless: the chaste one's pride  
Mimic of Virtue scowls on thy distress:  
Thy Loves and they that envied thee deride:  
And Vice alone will shelter Wretchedness!  
O! I could weep to think that there should be  
Cold-bosom'd lewd ones, who endure to place  
Foul offerings on the shrine of Misery,  
And force from Famine the caress of Love;  
May He shed healing on the sore disgrace,  
He, the great Comforter that rules above!  
?1794.

DOMESTIC PEACE<sup>2</sup>

[FROM 'THE FALL OF ROBESPIERRE', ACT I, L. 210]

TELL me, on what holy ground  
May Domestic Peace be found?  
Halcyon daughter of the skies,  
Far on fearful wings she flies,  
From the pomp of Sceptered State,  
From the Rebel's noisy hate.  
In a cottag'd vale She dwells,  
Listening to the Sabbath bells!

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796: included in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. 'The first half of Effusion xv was written by the Author of "Joan of Arc", an Epic Poem.' Preface to *Poems*, 1796, p. xi.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Fall of Robespierre*, 1795: included (as 'Song', p. 18) in 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

*The Outcast*—Title] Effusion xv. 1796: Sonnet vii. 1797: Sonnet vi. 1803: Sonnet ix. 1828, 1829, and 1834: An Unfortunate 1893.

7 Thy kindred, when they see thee, turn aside 1803. 9 O I am sad 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829. 10 Men, born of woman 1803.

13-14 Man has no feeling for thy sore Disgrace:

Keen blows the Blast upon the moulting Dove. 1803.

13 the] thy 1796, 1797, 1828.

*Domestic Peace*—Title] Effusion xxv. 1796.

Still around her steps are seen  
 Spotless Honour's meeker mien,  
 Love, the sire of pleasing fears,  
 Sorrow smiling through her tears,  
 And conscious of the past employ  
 Memory, bosom-spring of joy.

10

1794.

ON A DISCOVERY MADE TOO LATE<sup>1</sup>

THOU bleedest, my poor Heart! and thy distress  
 Reasoning I ponder with a scornful smile  
 And probe thy sore wound sternly, though the while  
 Swoln be mine eye and dim with heaviness.  
 Why didst thou listen to Hope's whisper bland? 5  
 Or, listening, why forget the healing tale,  
 When Jealousy with feverous fancies pale  
 Jarr'd thy fine fibres with a maniac's hand?  
 Faint was that Hope, and rayless!—Yet 'twas fair  
 And sooth'd with many a dream the hour of rest: 10  
 Thou should'st have lov'd it most, when most opprest,  
 And nurs'd it with an agony of care,  
 Even as a mother her sweet infant heir  
 That wan and sickly droops upon her breast!

1794.

TO THE AUTHOR OF 'THE ROBBERS'<sup>2</sup>

SCHILLER! that hour I would have wish'd to die,  
 If thro' the shuddering midnight I had sent  
 From the dark dungeon of the Tower time-rent  
 That fearful voice, a famish'd Father's cry—

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : *Selection of Sonnets, Poems 1796* : in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. It was sent in a letter to Southey, dated October 21, 1794. (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 92.)

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1796 : included in *Selection of Sonnets, 1796* : in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. The following 'Note' (Note 6, pp. 180, 181) was printed in 1796, and appears again in 1797 as a footnote, p. 83 :—'One night in Winter, on leaving a College-friend's room, with

*On a Discovery—Title] Effusion xix. 1796 (in 'Contents' *To my Heart*): Sonnet II. On a Discovery made too late 1797, 1803, and again in P. and D. W., 1877-80 : Sonnet xi. 1828, 1829, 1834.*

<sup>2-4</sup> Doth Reason ponder with an anguish'd smile  
 Probing thy sore wound sternly, tho' the while  
 Her eye be swollen and dim with heaviness. *Letter, 1794.*

<sup>6</sup> the] its *Letter, 1794.*    <sup>7</sup> feverous] feverish 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.  
<sup>14</sup> wan] pale *Letter, 1794.*

*To the Author of 'The Robbers'—Title] Effusion xx. To the Author, &c.*

Lest in some after moment aught more mean  
 Might stamp me mortal ! A triumphant shout  
 Black Horror scream'd, and all her *goblin* rout  
 Diminish'd shrunk from the more withering scene !  
 Ah ! Bard tremendous in sublimity !  
 Could I behold thee in thy loftier mood  
 Wandering at eve with finely-frenzied eye  
 Beneath some vast old tempest-swinging wood !  
 Awhile with mute awe gazing I would brood :  
 Then weep aloud in a wild ecstasy !

? 1794.

5

10

### MELANCHOLY<sup>1</sup>

#### A FRAGMENT

STRETCH'D on a moulder'd Abbey's broadest wall,

Where ruining ivies propp'd the ruins steep—  
 Her folded arms wrapping her tatter'd pall,

<sup>2</sup> Had Melancholy mus'd herself to sleep.

whom I had supped, I carelessly took away with me "The Robbers", a drama, the very name of which I had never before heard of:—A Winter midnight—the wind high—and "The Robbers" for the first time!—The readers of Schiller will conceive what I felt. Schiller introduces no supernatural beings; yet his human beings agitate and astonish more than all the *goblin* rout—even of Shakespeare.' See for another account of the midnight reading of 'The Robbers', Letter to Southey, November [6], 1794, *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 96, 97.

In the *Selection of Sonnets*, 1796, this note was reduced to one sentence. 'Schiller introduces no Supernatural Beings.' In 1803 the note is omitted, but a footnote to line 4 is appended: 'The Father of Moor in the Play of the Robbers.'

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, December 12, 1797 (not, as Coleridge says, the *Morning Chronicle*); included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817 (with an addition), and, again, in *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80, and (in its first shape) in 1828, 1829, 1834, 1852, and 1893. Sent in Letter to Sotheby, Aug. 26, 1802.

<sup>2</sup> Bowles borrowed these lines unconsciously, I doubt not. I had repeated the poem on my first visit [Sept. 1797]. *MS. Note, S. T. C.* See, too, *Letter*, Aug. 26, 1802. [Here Melancholy on the pale crags laid, Might muse herself to sleep—*Coomb Ellen*, written September, 1798.]

[To 'Schiller', *Contents*] 1796: Sonnet viii. To the Author of 'The Robbers' 1797: Sonnet xv. 1803: Sonnet xii. To the Author of the Robbers 1828, 1829, 1834.

Lines 1-4 are printed in the reverse order (4, 3, 2, 1). *Selections*.

5-6 That in no after moment aught less vast

Might stamp me mortal ! *Selections*.

That in no after moment aught less vast

Might stamp me mortal ! 1797, 1803.

8 From the more with'ring scene diminish'd past. *Selections, 1797, 1803*.

*Melancholy*. 1 Upon a mouldering *Letter*, Aug. 26, 1802. 2 Where  
 ruining] Whose running *M. C.* propp'd] prop *Letter*, Aug. 26, 1802.

The fern was press'd beneath her hair,  
The dark green Adder's Tongue<sup>1</sup> was there;  
And still as pass'd the flagging sea-gale weak,  
The long lank leaf bow'd fluttering o'er her cheek.

That pallid cheek was flush'd: her eager look  
Beam'd eloquent in slumber! Inly wrought,  
Imperfect sounds her moving lips forsook,  
And her bent forehead work'd with troubled thought.  
Strange was the dream—

? 1794.

10

TO A YOUNG ASS<sup>2</sup>  
ITS MOTHER BEING TETHERED NEAR IT

Poor little Foal of an oppress'd race!  
I love the languid patience of thy face:  
And oft with gentle hand I give thee bread,  
And clap thy ragged coat, and pat thy head.  
But what thy dulled spirits hath dismay'd,  
That never thou dost sport along the glade? 5

<sup>1</sup> A Plant found on old walls and in wells and mois[t] [h]edges.—It is often called the Hart's Tongue. *M. C.* *Asplenium Scolopendrium*, more commonly called Hart's Tongue. *Letter*, 1802. A botanical mistake. The plant I meant is called the Hart's Tongue, but this would unluckily spoil the poetical effect. *Cedat ergo Botanice*. *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817. A botanical mistake. The plant which the poet here describes is called the Hart's Tongue, 1828, 1829, 1852.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Chronicle*, December 30, 1794: included in 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. A MS. version, dated October 24, 1794 (see *P. W.*, 1893, pp. 477, 488), was presented by Coleridge to Professor William Smyth, Professor of Modern History at Cambridge, 1807-49; a second version was included in a letter to Southey, dated December 17, 1794 (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 119, 120).

7 pass'd] came *Letter*, 1802. sea-gale] sea-gales *M. C.*, *Letter*, 1802.  
8 The] Her *Letter*, 1802. 9 That] Her *Letter*, 1802. 13 Not in *Letter* 1802.

13 Strange was the dream that fill'd her soul,  
Nor did not whisp'ring spirits roll

A mystic tumult, and a fateful rhyme,  
Mix'd with wild shapings of the unborn time!

*M. C.*, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817.

To a Young Ass—Title] Monologue to a Young Jack Ass in Jesus Piece. Its mother near it chained to a log *MS. Oct. 24, 1794*: Address to a Young Jack-Ass and its Tether'd mother *MS. Dec. 17, 1794*: Address, &c. In familiar verse *Morning Chronicle*, Dec. 30, 1794: Effusion xxxiii. To a Young Ass, &c. 1796.

3 gentle] friendly *MS. Dec. 1794*, *M. C.* 4 pat] scratch *MS. Oct. 1794*, *M. C.*  
5 spirits] spirit *MSS. Oct. Dec. 1794*, *M. C.* 6 along] upon *MS. Dec. 1794*, *M. C.*

And (most unlike the nature of things young)  
That earthward still thy moveless head is hung ?  
Do thy prophetic fears anticipate,  
Meek Child of Misery ! thy future fate ?  
The starving meal, and all the thousand aches  
'Which patient Merit of the Unworthy takes' ?  
Or is thy sad heart thrill'd with filial pain  
To see thy wretched mother's shorten'd chain ?  
And truly, very piteous is *her* lot—  
Chain'd to a log within a narrow spot,  
Where the close-eaten grass is scarcely seen,  
While sweet around her waves the tempting green !

Poor Ass ! thy master should have learnt to show  
Pity—best taught by fellowship of Woe !  
For much I fear me that *He* lives like thee,  
Half famish'd in a land of Luxury !  
How *askingly* its footsteps hither bend ?  
It seems to say, 'And have I then *one* friend ?'  
Innocent foal ! thou poor despis'd forlorn !  
I hail thee *Brother*—spite of the fool's scorn !  
And fain would take thee with me, in the Dell  
Of Peace and mild Equality to dwell,  
Where Toil shall call the charmer Health his bride,  
And Laughter tickle Plenty's ribless side !

<sup>8</sup> That still to earth thy moping head is hung MSS. Oct. Dec. 1794, M. C.

<sup>9</sup> Doth thy prophetic soul MS. Oct. 1794. <sup>12</sup> Which] That MSS.

Oct. Dec. 1794. 14 shorten'd] lengthen'd MS. Dec. 1794, M. C

<sup>16</sup> within] upon MSS. Oct. Dec. 1794, M. C.      <sup>19</sup> thy] her 1796.      21

For much I fear, that He lives e'en as she, 1796. 23 footsteps hither

bend] steps toward me tend MS. Oct. 1794 : steps towards me bend MS. Dec.

1794, M. C.: footsteps t'ward me bend 1796. 25 despised and forlorn MS.

*Oct. 1794.*      27 would] I'd MSS. Oct. Dec. 1794.      in] to MS. Oct. 1794

28 Of high-soul'd Pantisocracy to dwell MS. Dec. 1794, M. C.

-a full - Where high soul'd Pantisocracy shall dwell!

28 foll. Where high-soul'd Fan-tisocracy shall aewen?  
Where Mirth shall tickle Plenty's ribless side,\*

28 foll. Where high-soul'd Pantisocracy shall dwell!  
Where Mirth shall tickle Plenty's ribless side,\*  
And smiles from Beauty's Lip on sunbeams glide,  
Where Toil shall wed young Health that charming Lass!  
And use his sleek cows for a looking-glass—  
Where Rats shall mess with Terriers hand-in-glove  
And Mice with Pussy's Whiskers sport in Love MS. Oct. 1794.

\* This is a truly poetical line of which the author has assured us that he did not mean it to have any meaning. Note by Ed. of MS. Oct. 1794.

How thou wouldst toss thy heels in gamesome play,  
 And frisk about, as lamb or kitten gay!  
 Yea! and more musically sweet to me  
 Thy dissonant harsh bray of joy would be,  
 Than warbled melodies that soothe to rest  
 The aching of pale Fashion's vacant breast!

35

1794.

LINES ON A FRIEND<sup>1</sup>

WHO DIED OF A FRENZY FEVER INDUCED BY CALUMNIOS REPORTS

EDMUND! thy grave with aching eye I scan,  
 And inly groan for Heaven's poor outcast—Man!  
 'Tis tempest all or gloom : in early youth  
 If gifted with th' Ithuriel lance of Truth  
 We force to start amid her feign'd caress  
 Vice, siren-hag ! in native ugliness ;

5

A Brother's fate will haply rouse the tear,  
 And on we go in heaviness and fear !  
 But if our fond hearts call to Pleasure's bower  
 Some pigmy Folly in a careless hour,  
 The faithless guest shall stamp the enchanted ground,  
 And mingled forms of Misery rise around :  
 Heart-fretting Fear, with pallid look aghast,  
 That courts the future woe to hide the past ;  
 Remorse, the poison'd arrow in his side,  
 And loud lewd Mirth, to Anguish close allied:

10

15

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. Four MS. versions are extant, (1) in Letter to Southey, Nov. [6], 1794 (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 98, 99) : (2) in letter to George Coleridge, Nov. 6, 1794 : (3) in the Estlin copy-book : (4) in the MS. 4°. The Friend was the Rev. Fulwood Smerdon, vicar of Ottery St. Mary, who died in August 1794.

35-6      Than Handel's softest airs that soothe to rest  
               The tumult of a scoundrel Monarch's Breast. *MS. Oct. 1794.*  
               Than Banti's warbled airs that sooth to rest  
               The tumult &c. *MS. Dec. 1794.*

36      The tumult of some SCOUNDREL Monarch's breast. *M. C. 1796.*  
*Lines on a Friend—Title]* On the Death of a Friend who died of a Frenzy  
 Fever brought on by anxiety *MS. E.*

1 — ! thy grave *MS. Letter to R. S.* : Smerdon ! thy grave *MS. Letter to G. C.* [3 early] earliest *MS. Letters to R. S. and G. C.*, *MS. E.* 5 We] He *MS. Letters to R. S. and G. C.*, *MS. E.*, *MS. 4°*, 1796. 7 will] shall *MS. Letters to R. S. and G. C.*, *MS. E.* 8 And on he goes *MS. Letters to R. S. and G. C.*, *MS. E.*, 1796: Onward we move 1803. 9 his fond heart *MS. Letters to R. S. and G. C.*, *MS. E.*, 1796. 11 quick stamps *MS. Letters to R. S. and G. C.*, *MS. E.*, *MS. 4°*. 12 threaten round *MS. Letters to R. S. and G. C.*

Till Frenzy, fierce-eyed child of moping Pain,  
 Darts her hot lightning-flash athwart the brain.

Rest, injur'd shade ! Shall Slander squatting near  
 Spit her cold venom in a dead man's ear ? 20

'Twas thine to feel the sympathetic glow  
 In Merit's joy, and Poverty's meek woe ;  
 Thine all, that cheer the moment as it flies,  
 The zoneless Cares, and smiling Courtesies.

Nurs'd in thy heart the firmer Virtues grew, 25  
 And in thy heart they wither'd ! Such chill dew  
 Wan Indolence on each young blossom shed ;  
 And Vanity her filmy net-work spread,  
 With eye that roll'd around in asking gaze,  
 And tongue that traffick'd in the trade of praise. 30

Thy follies such ! the hard world mark'd them well !  
 Were they more wise, the Proud who never fell ?  
 Rest, injur'd shade ! the poor man's grateful prayer  
 On heaven-ward wing thy wounded soul shall bear.

As oft at twilight gloom thy grave I pass, 35  
 And sit me down upon its recent grass,  
 With introverted eye I contemplate  
 Similitude of soul, perhaps of—Fate !

To me hath Heaven with bounteous hand assign'd  
 Energetic Reason and a shaping mind, 40  
 The daring ken of Truth, the Patriot's part,  
 And Pity's sigh, that breathes the gentle heart—  
 Sloth-jaundic'd all ! and from my graspless hand  
 Drop Friendship's precious pearls, like hour-glass sand.  
 I weep, yet stoop not ! the faint anguish flows, 45  
 A dreamy pang in Morning's feverous doze.

Is this piled earth our Being's passless mound ?  
 Tell me, cold grave ! is Death with poppies crown'd ?

17 fierce-eyed] frantic MS. Letters to R. S. and G. C., MS. E erased [See Lamb's Letter to Coleridge, June 10, 1796]. 19 squatting] couching MS. Letter to G. C., MS. E [See Lamb's Letter, June 10, 1796]. 23 cheer] cheers MS. E. 25 firmer] generous MS. Letters to R. S. and G. C.: manly MS. E. 29 roll'd] prowld MS. Letters to R. S. and G. C., MS. E. 33-4 the poor man's prayer of praise  
 On heavenward wing thy wounded soul shall raise. 1796. 35 As oft in Fancy's thought MS. Letters to R. S. and G. C. 39 bounteous] liberal MS. Letters to R. S. and G. C., MS. E. 41 ken] soul MS. Letter to R. S. 46 feverous] feverish all MSS. and Eds. 1796-1829. 47 this] that MS. Letters to R. S. and G. C., MS. E. 51 passless] hapless Letter to G. C.

Tired Sentinel! mid fitful starts I nod,  
And fain would sleep, though pillow'd on a clod!  
1794.

50

TO A FRIEND<sup>1</sup>

[CHARLES LAMB]

## TOGETHER WITH AN UNFINISHED POEM

THUS far my scanty brain hath built the rhyme  
Elaborate and swelling: yet the heart  
Not owns it. From thy spirit-breathing powers  
I ask not now, my friend! the aiding verse,  
Tedious to thee, and from thy anxious thought  
Of dissonant mood. In fancy (well I know)  
From business wandering far and local cares,  
Thou creepest round a dear-lov'd Sister's bed  
With noiseless step, and watchest the faint look,  
Soothing each pang with fond solicitude,  
And tenderest tones medicinal of love.

5

I too a Sister *had*, an only Sister—  
She lov'd me dearly, and I doted on her!  
To her I pour'd forth all my puny sorrows  
(As a sick Patient in a Nurse's arms)  
And of the heart those hidden maladies  
That e'en from Friendship's eye will shrink asham'd.

10

15

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796: included in 1797, 1803, and, again, in 1844. Lines 12–19 ('I too a sister . . . Because she was not') are published in 1834 (i. 35) under the heading 'The Same', i. e. the same as the preceding poem, 'On seeing a Youth affectionately welcomed by a Sister.' The date, December 1794, affixed in 1797 and 1803, is correct. The poem was sent in a letter from Coleridge to Southey, dated December 1794. (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 128.) The 'Unfinished Poem' was, certainly, *Religious Musings*, begun on Christmas Eve, 1794. The text is that of 1844.

49 *Sentinel*] *Centinel* all MSS. and Eds. 1796–1829. mid] with Letters to R. S. and G. C. Below l. 50 the date (November 1794) is affixed in 1796, 1797, and 1803.

To a Friend—Title] To C. Lamb MS. Letter, Dec. 1794: Effusion xxii. To a Friend, &c. 1796: To Charles Lamb with an unfinished Poem 1844.

1–3 Thus far my sterile brain hath fram'd the song  
Elaborate and swelling: but the heart  
Not owns it. From thy spirit-breathing power

MS. Letter, Dec. 1794.

7 Not in MS. Letter, Dec. 1794.

Between 13 and 14 On her soft bosom I reposed my cares  
And gain'd for every wound a healing tear.

MS. Letter, 1794.

15 a] his MS. Letter, 1794, 1796, 1797, 1803. 17 That shrink asham'd from even Friendship's eye. MS. Letter, 1794, 1796, 1797.

O ! I have wak'd at midnight, and have wept,  
Because she was not !—Cheerily, dear Charles !  
Thou thy best friend shalt cherish many a year :      20  
Such warm presages feel I of high Hope.  
For not uninterested the dear Maid  
I've view'd—her soul affectionate yet wise,  
Her polish'd wit as mild as lambent glories  
That play around a sainted infant's head.      25  
He knows (the Spirit that in secret sees,  
Of whose omniscient and all-spreading Love  
Aught to *implore*<sup>1</sup> were impotence of mind)  
That my mute thoughts are sad before his throne,  
Prepar'd, when he his healing ray vouchsafes,      30  
Thanksgiving to pour forth with lifted heart,  
And praise Him Gracious with a Brother's Joy !

1794.

## SONNETS ON EMINENT CHARACTERS

CONTRIBUTED TO THE 'MORNING CHRONICLE' IN DECEMBER 1794  
AND JANUARY 1795

[The Sonnets were introduced by the following letter :—

'MR. EDITOR—If, Sir, the following Poems will not disgrace your poetical department, I will transmit you a series of *Sonnets* (as it is the fashion to call them) addressed like these to eminent Contemporaries.

'JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.'

S. T. C.]

I<sup>2</sup>

## TO THE HONOURABLE MR. ERSKINE

WHEN British Freedom for an happier land  
Spread her broad wings, that flutter'd with affright,  
ERSKINE ! thy voice she heard, and paus'd her flight  
Sublime of hope, for dreadless thou didst stand

<sup>1</sup> I utterly recant the sentiment contained in the lines—

' Of whose omniscient and all-spreading Love  
Aught to *implore* were impotence of mind,'

it being written in Scripture, 'Ask, and it shall be given you,' and my human reason being moreover convinced of the propriety of offering *petitions* as well as thanksgivings to Deity. [Note of S. T. C., in *Poems, 1797 and 1803.*]

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Chronicle*, Dec. 1, 1794: included in 1796, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

18 wak'd] woke MS. Letter, 1794, 1796, 1797, 1803.      21 warm] high :  
high] warm MS. Letter, 1794.      presages] presagings 1803.      25 sainted]  
holly MS. Letter, 1794.      26 that] who MS. Letter, 1794.      31 To pour forth  
thanksgiving MS. Letter, 1794, 1796, 1797, 1803.

To the Honourable Mr. Erskine—Title] Effusion v. 1796: Sonnet x. 1803:  
Sonnet iv. 1828, 1829, 1834.

4 for dreadless] where fearless M. C. Dec. 1, 1794.

(Thy censer glowing with the hallow'd flame) 5  
 A hireless Priest before the insulted shrine,  
 And at her altar pour the stream divine  
 Of unmatch'd eloquence. Therefore thy name  
 Her sons shall venerate, and cheer thy breast  
 With blessings heaven-ward breath'd. And when the doom  
 Of Nature bids thee die, beyond the tomb 11  
 Thy light shall shine: as sunk beneath the West  
 Though the great Summer Sun eludes our gaze,  
 Still burns wide Heaven with his distended blaze. \*\*

*December 1, 1794.*

\*\* \* 'Our elegant correspondent will highly gratify every reader of taste by the continuance of his exquisitely beautiful productions. No. II. shall appear on an early day.'

II<sup>1</sup>

BURKE

As late I lay in Slumber's shadowy vale,  
 With wetted cheek and in a mourner's guise,  
 I saw the sainted form of FREEDOM rise:  
 She spake! not sadder moans the autumnal gale—  
 'Great Son of Genius! sweet to me thy name, 5  
 Ere in an evil hour with alter'd voice  
 Thou bad'st Oppression's hireling crew rejoice  
 Blasting with wizard spell my laurell'd fame.  
 'Yet never, BURKE! thou drank'st Corruption's bowl!<sup>2</sup>

Thee stormy Pity and the cherish'd lure 10

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Chronicle*, Dec. 9, 1794: included in 1796, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. This Sonnet was sent in a letter to Southey, dated December 11, 1794. *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 118.

<sup>2</sup> Yet never, BURKE! thou dran'kst Corruption's bowl!

When I composed this line, I had not read the following paragraph in the *Cambridge Intelligencer* (of Saturday, November 21, 1795):—

'When Mr. Burke first crossed over the House of Commons from the Opposition to the Ministry, he received a pension of £1200 a year charged on the Kings Privy Purse. When he had completed his labours, it was then a question what recom-

6 A] An M. C., 1796-1802, 1828, 1829. the insulted] her injur'd M. C.  
 7 pour] pour'dst M. C., 1796, 1803. 8 unmatch'd] matchless M. C.

10 With heav'n-breath'd blessings; and, when late the doom M. C. 11  
 die] rise 1803.

13-14 Though the great Sun not meets our wistful gaze  
 Still glows wide Heaven M. C.

*Below 1. 14 Jesus College Cambridge M. C.*

*Burke—Title] Effusion ii. 1796: Sonnet vii. 1803: Sonnet ii. 1828, 1829, 1834.*

1 As late I roam'd through Fancy's shadowy vale *MS. Letter, Dec. 11, 1794.*

4 She] He *MS. Letter, 1794.*

Of Pomp, and proud Precipitance of soul  
 Wilder'd with meteor fires. Ah Spirit pure!  
 'That Error's mist had left thy purgéd eye:  
 So might I clasp thee with a Mother's joy!'  
*December 9, 1794.*

III<sup>1</sup>

PRIESTLEY

THOUGH rous'd by that dark Vizir Riot rude  
 Have driven our PRIESTLEY o'er the Ocean swell;  
 Though Superstition and her wolfish brood  
 Bay his mild radiance, impotent and fell;  
 Calm in his halls of brightness he shall dwell! 5  
 For lo! RELIGION at his strong behest  
 Starts with mild anger from the Papal spell,  
 And flings to Earth her tinsel-glittering vest,  
 Her mitred State and cumbrous Pomp unholy;  
 And JUSTICE wakes to bid th' Oppressor wail 10  
 Insulting aye the wrongs of patient Folly;  
 And from her dark retreat by Wisdom won

pense his service deserved. Mr. Burke wanting a present supply of money, it was thought that a pension of £2000 *per annum* for *forty years certain*, would sell for eighteen years' purchase, and bring him of course £36,000. But this pension must, by the very unfortunate act, of which Mr. Burke was himself the author, have come before Parliament. Instead of this Mr. Pitt suggested the idea of a pension of £2000 a year for *three lives*, to be charged on the King's Revenue of the West India 4½ per cents. This was tried at the market, but it was found that it would not produce the £36,000 which were wanted. In consequence of this a pension of £2500 per annum, for *three lives* on the 4½ West India Fund, the lives to be nominated by Mr. Burke, that he may accommodate the purchasers is *finally* granted to this disinterested patriot. He has thus retir'd from the trade of polities, with pensions to the amount of £3700 a year.' 1796, Note, pp. 177-9.

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Chronicle*, December 11, 1794: included in 1796, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. In all editions prior to 1852, 'Priestley' is spelled 'Priestly'. The Sonnet was sent to Southey in a letter dated December 17, 1794.

12 Urg'd on with wild'ring fires MS. Letter, Dec. 17, 1794, M. C. Below  
 l. 14 Jesus College M. C.

Priestley—Title] Effusion iv. 1796: Sonnet ix. 1803: Sonnet iii. 1828, 1829, 1834.

1-2 Tho' king-bred rage with lawless uproar rude  
 Hath driv'n M. C.

Tho' king-bred rage with lawless tumult rude  
 Have driv'n MS. Letter, Dec. 17, 1794.

7 Disdainful rouses from the Papal spell, M. C., MS. Letter, 1794. 11  
 That ground th' ensnared soul of patient Folly. M. C., MS. Letter, 1794.

Meek NATURE slowly lifts her matron veil  
To smile with fondness on her gazing Son !

*December 11, 1794.*

IV<sup>1</sup>

LA FAYETTE

As when far off the warbled strains are heard  
That soar on Morning's wing the vales among ;  
Within his cage the imprison'd Matin Bird  
Swells the full chorus with a generous song :

He bathes no pinion in the dewy light,  
No Father's joy, nō Lover's bliss he shares,  
Yet still the rising radiance cheers his sight—  
His fellows' Freedom soothes the Captive's cares !

Thou, FAYETTE ! who didst wake with startling voice  
Life's better Sun from that long wintry night,  
Thus in thy Country's triumphs shalt rejoice  
And mock with raptures high the Dungeon's might :

For lo ! the Morning struggles into Day,  
And Slavery's spectres shriek and vanish from the ray !

\* \* \* The above beautiful sonnet was written antecedently to the joyful account of the Patriot's escape from the Tyrant's Dungeon. [Note in *M. C.*]

*December 15, 1794.*

V<sup>2</sup>

KOSKIUSKO

O WHAT a loud and fearful shriek was there,  
As though a thousand souls one death-groan pour'd !  
Ah me ! they saw beneath a Hireling's sword  
Their Kosciusko fall ! Through the swart air

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Chronicle*, December 15, 1794 : included in 1796, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Chronicle*, December 16, 1794 : included in 1796, 1828, 1829, 1834. The Sonnet was sent to Southey in a letter dated December 17, 1794. *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 117.

*La Fayette—Title] Effusion ix. 1796 : Sonnet xiii. 1803 : Sonnet vii. 1828, 1829, 1834.*

*Kosciusko—Title] Effusion viii. 1796 : Sonnet vi. 1828, 1829, 1834.*

<sup>3-4</sup> Great Kosciusko 'neath an hireling's sword

The warriors view'd ! Hark ! through the list'ning air

*MS. Letter, Dec. 17, 1794.*

Great Kosciusko 'neath an Hireling's sword

His country view'd. Hark through the list'ning air *M. C.*

Ah me ! they view'd beneath an hireling's sword

Fall'n Kosciusko ! Thro' the burthened air 1796, 1828, 1829.

(As pauses the tir'd Cossac's barbarous yell  
 Of Triumph) on the chill and midnight gale  
 Rises with frantic burst or sadder swell  
 The dirge of murder'd Hope ! while Freedom pale  
 Bends in such anguish o'er her destin'd bier,  
 As if from eldest time some Spirit meek  
 Had gather'd in a mystic urn each tear  
 That ever on a Patriot's furrow'd cheek  
 Fit channel found ; and she had drain'd the bowl  
 In the mere wilfulness, and sick despair of soul !

*December 16, 1794.*

VI<sup>1</sup>

PITT

Not always should the Tear's ambrosial dew  
 Roll its soft anguish down thy furrow'd cheek !  
 Not always heaven-breath'd tones of Suppliance meek  
 Beseech thee, Mercy ! Yon dark Scowler view,  
 Who with proud words of dear-lov'd Freedom came— 5  
 More blasting than the mildew from the South !  
 And kiss'd his country with Iscariot mouth  
 (Ah ! foul apostate from his Father's fame !)<sup>2</sup>  
 Then fix'd her on the Cross of deep distress,  
 And at safe distance marks the thirsty Lance 10  
 Pierce her big side ! But O ! if some strange trance  
 The eye-lids of thy stern-brow'd Sister<sup>3</sup> press,

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Chronicle*, December 23, 1794, and, secondly, in *The Watchman*, No. V, April 2, 1796; included in 1796, 1803, and in 1852, with the following note:—‘This Sonnet, and the ninth, to Stanhope, were among the pieces withdrawn from the second edition of 1797. They reappeared in the edition of 1803, and were again withdrawn in 1828, solely, it may be presumed, on account of their political vehemence. They will excite no angry feelings, and lead to no misapprehensions now, and as they are fully equal to their companions in poetical merit, the Editors have not scrupled to reproduce them. These Sonnets were originally entitled “Effusions”.’

<sup>2</sup> Earl of Chatham.

<sup>3</sup> Justice.

5 As] When *M. C.*, MS. Letter, Dec. 17, 1794. 8 The ‘dirge of Murder'd Hope’ MS. Letter, Dec. 17, 1794. 12 That ever furrow'd a sad Patriot's cheek MS. Letter, 1794, *M. C.*, 1796.

13-14 And she had drench'd the sorrows of the bowl

E'en till she reel'd intoxicate of soul MS. Letter, 1794, *M. C.*

And she had drain'd the sorrows of the bowl

E'en till she reel'd, &c. 1796.

Pitt—Title] Effusion iii. 1796: To Mercy *Watchman*: Sonnet viii. 1803: Sonnet iii. 1852.

8 Staining most foul a Godlike Father's name *M. C.*, *Watchman*.

Seize, Mercy ! thou more terrible the brand,  
And hurl her thunderbolts with fiercer hand !

December 23, 1794.

13

VII<sup>1</sup>

TO THE REV. W. L. BOWLES<sup>2</sup>

[FIRST VERSION, PRINTED IN 'MORNING CHRONICLE',  
DECEMBER 26, 1794]

My heart has thank'd thee, BOWLES ! for those soft strains,  
That, on the still air floating, tremblingly  
Wak'd in me Fancy, Love, and Sympathy !  
For hence, not callous to a Brother's pains  
Thro' Youth's gay prime and thornless paths I went ;      5  
And, when the *darker* day of life began,  
And I did roam, a thought-bewilder'd man !  
Thy kindred Lays an healing solace lent,  
Each lonely pang with dreamy joys combin'd,  
And stole from vain REGRET her scorpion stings ;      10  
While shadowy PLEASURE, with mysterious wings,  
Brooded the wavy and tumultuous mind,  
Like that great Spirit, who with plastic sweep  
Mov'd on the darkness of the formless Deep !

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Chronicle*, December 26, 1794. First collected, *P. and D. W.*, 1877, i. 138. The sonnet was sent in a letter to Southeby, dated December 11, 1794. *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 111.

<sup>2</sup> Author of *Sonnets and other Poems*, published by Dilly. To Mr. Bowles's poetry I have always thought the following remarks from Maximus Tyrius peculiarly applicable :—‘I am not now treating of that poetry which is estimated by the pleasure it affords to the ear—the ear having been corrupted, and the judgment-seat of the perceptions ; but of that which proceeds from the intellectual Helicon, that which is dignified, and appertaining to *human* feelings, and entering into the soul.’—The 13th Sonnet for exquisite delicacy of painting ; the 19th for tender simplicity ; and the 25th for manly pathos, are compositions of, perhaps, unrivalled merit. Yet while I am selecting these, I almost accuse myself of causeless partiality ; for surely never was a writer so equal in excellence !—S. T. C. [In this note as it first appeared in the *Morning Chronicle* a Greek sentence preceded the supposed English translation. It is not to be found in the *Dissertations* of Maximus Tyrius, but the following passage which, for verbal similitudes, may be compared with others (e.g. 20, 8, p. 243 : 21, 3, p. 247 ; 28, 3, p. 336) is to be found in Davies and Markland's edition (Lips. 1725), vol. ii, p. 203 :—Οὐ τί τοι λέγω τὴν δύναμιν καὶ φύσην καὶ χρώματαν, ἀνεν λόγου ἐπὶ τῇ ψυχῇ ιοῦσαν, τῷ τερπνῷ τῆς ἀκοῆς τιμηθεῖσαν . . . τὴν ἀληθήν καὶ ἐκ τοῦ Ἐλικάνων μούσαν, . . .]

13 Seize thou more terrible th' avenging brand M. C.

To the Rev. W. L. Bowles—3 Wak'd] Woke MS. Letter, Dec. 11, 1794.

[SECOND VERSION]<sup>1</sup>

My heart has thank'd thee, BOWLES! for those soft strains  
 Whose sadness soothes me, like the murmuring  
 Of wild-bees in the sunny showers of spring!  
 For hence not callous to the mourner's pains

Through Youth's gay prime and thornless paths I went: 5  
 And when the mightier Throes of mind began,  
 And drove me forth, a thought-bewilder'd man,  
 Their mild and manliest melancholy lent

A mingled charm, such as the pang consign'd  
 To slumber, though the big tear it renew'd; 10  
 Bidding a strange mysterious PLEASURE brood  
 Over the wavy and tumultuous mind,

As the great SPIRIT erst with plastic sweep  
 Mov'd on the darkness of the unform'd deep.

VIII<sup>2</sup>

## MRS. SIDDONS

As when a child on some long Winter's night  
 Affrighted clinging to its Grandam's knees  
 With eager wond'ring and perturb'd delight  
 Listens strange tales of fearful dark decrees

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Chronicle*, December 29, 1794, under the signature, S. T. C. : included in 1796 (as C. L.'s) and in 1797 as Charles Lamb's, but reassigned to Coleridge in 1803. First collected, *P. and D. W.*, 1877, i. 140, 141. This sonnet may have been altered by Coleridge, but was no doubt written by Lamb and given by him to Coleridge to make up his tale of sonnets for the *Morning Chronicle*. In 1796 and 1797 Coleridge acknowledged the sonnet to be Lamb's ; but in 1803, Lamb, who was seeing that volume through the press, once more handed it over to Coleridge.

*To the Rev. W. L. Bowles (Second Version)—Title] Effusion i. 1796 : Sonnet i. 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, 1834.*

6-7 *And when the darker day of life began  
 And I did roam, &c. 1796, 1797, 1803.*

9 *such as] which oft 1797, 1803. 11 a] such 1797, 1803.*

13-14 *As made the soul enamour'd of her woe :*

*No common praise, dear Bard ! to thee I owe. 1797, 1803.*

*Mrs. Siddons—Title] Effusion vii. 1796 : Sonnet viii. 1797, p. 224 : Sonnet xii. 1803.*

4 *dark tales of fearful strange decrees M. C.*

Mutter'd to wretch by necromantic spell ;  
 Or of those hags, who at the witching time  
 Of murky Midnight ride the air sublime,  
 And mingle foul embrace with fiends of Hell :

Cold Horror drinks its blood ! Anon the tear  
 More gentle starts, to hear the Beldame tell  
 Of pretty Babes, that lov'd each other dear.  
 Murder'd by cruel Uncle's mandate fell :

Even such the shiv'ring joys thy tones impart,  
 Even so thou, SIDDONS ! meltst my sad heart !

*December 29, 1794.*

#### IX

TO WILLIAM GODWIN<sup>1</sup>

AUTHOR OF 'POLITICAL JUSTICE'

O FORM'D<sup>t</sup> illume a sunless world forlorn,  
 As o'er the chill and dusky brow of Night,  
 In Finland's wintry skies the Mimic Morn<sup>2</sup>  
 Electric pours a stream of rosy light,

Pleas'd I have mark'd OPPRESSION, terror-pale,  
 Since, thro' the windings of her dark machine,  
 Thy steady eye has shot its glances keen—  
 And bade th' All-lovely 'scenes at distance hail'.

Nor will I not thy holy guidance bless,  
 And hymn thee, GODWIN ! with an ardent lay ;  
 For that thy voice, in Passion's stormy day,  
 When wild I roam'd the bleak Heath of Distress,

Bade the bright form of Justice meet my way—  
 And told me that her name was HAPPINESS.

*January 10, 1795.*

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Chronicle*, January 10, 1795. First collected, *P. and D. W.*, 1877, i. 143. The last six lines were sent in a letter to Southey, dated December 17, 1794. *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 117.

<sup>2</sup> Aurora Borealis.

X<sup>1</sup>

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

OF BALIOL COLLEGE, OXFORD, AUTHOR OF THE 'RETROSPECT',  
AND OTHER POEMS

SOUTHEY! thy melodies steal o'er mine ear  
 Like far-off joyance, or the murmuring  
 Of wild bees in the sunny showers of Spring—  
 Sounds of such mingled import as may cheer

The lonely breast, yet rouse a mindful tear:  
 Wak'd by the Song doth Hope-born FANCY fling  
 Rich showers of dewy fragrance from her wing,  
 Till sickly PASSION's drooping Myrtles sear

Blossom anew! But O! more thrill'd, I prize  
 Thy sadder strains, that bid in MEMORY's Dream      10  
 The faded forms of past Delight arise;  
 Then soft, on Love's pale cheek, the tearful gleam  
 Of Pleasure smiles—as faint yet beauteous lies  
 The imag'd Rainbow on a willowy stream.

January 14, 1795.

XI<sup>2</sup>

TO RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN, ESQ.

IT was some Spirit, SHERIDAN! that breath'd  
 O'er thy young mind such wildly-various power!

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Chronicle*, January 14, 1795. First collected, *P. and D. W.*, 1877, i. 142. This sonnet was sent in a letter to Southey, dated December 17, 1794. *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 120.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Chronicle*, January 29, 1795: included in 1796, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. Two MS. versions are extant; one in a letter to Southey, dated December 9, 1794 (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895,

*To R. B. Sheridan—Title] To Sheridan MS. E: Effusion vi. 1796: Sonnet xi. 1803: Sonnet v. 1828, 1829, 1834.*

- 1-5 Some winged Genius, Sheridan! imbreath'd  
 His *various* influence on thy natal hour:  
 My fancy bodies forth the Guardian power,  
 His temples with Hymettian flowrets wreath'd  
 And sweet his voice *MS. Letter, Dec. 9, 1794.*
- 1-2 Was it some Spirit, SHERIDAN! that breath'd  
 His *various* &c. *M. C.*
- 1-3 Some winged Genius, Sheridan! imbreath'd  
 O'er thy young Soul a wildly-various power!  
 My Fancy meets thee in her shaping hour *MS. E.*

My soul hath mark'd thee in her shaping hour,  
Thy temples with Hymettian<sup>1</sup> flow'rets wreath'd :

And sweet thy voice, as when o'er LAURA's bier  
Sad Music trembled thro' Vauclusa's glade ;  
Sweet, as at dawn the love-lorn Serenade  
That wafts soft dreams to SLUMBER's listening ear.

Now patriot Rage and Indignation high  
Swell the full tones ! And now thine eye-beams dance to  
Meanings of Scorn and Wit's quaint revelry !  
Writhes inly from the bosom-probing glance

The Apostate by the brainless rout ador'd,  
As erst that elder Fiend beneath great Michael's sword.

*January 29, 1795.*

i. 118), and a second in the Estlin copy-book. In 1796 a note to line 4 was included in Notes, p. 179, and in 1797 and 1803 affixed as a footnote, p. 95 :—‘Hymettian Flowrets. Hymettus, a mountain near Athens, celebrated for its honey. This alludes to Mr. Sheridan’s classical attainments, and the following four lines to the exquisite sweetness and almost *Italian* delicacy of his poetry. In Shakespeare’s *Lover’s Complaint* there is a fine stanza almost prophetically characteristic of Mr. Sheridan.

So on the tip of his subduing tongue  
All kind of argument and question deep,  
All replication prompt and reason strong  
For his advantage still did wake and sleep,  
To make the weeper laugh, the laugher weep :  
He had the dialect and different skill  
Catching all passions in his craft of will ;  
That he did in the general bosom reign  
Of young and old.’

<sup>1</sup> Hymettus, a mountain of Attica famous for honey. *M. C.*

8 wafts] bears *MS. Letter, 1794, M. C., MS. E.* 9 Rage] Zeal *MS. Letter 1794, MS. E, M. C.* 10 thine] his *Letter, 1794, M. C.*

12 While inly writhes from the Soul-probing glance *M. C.*

12-14 Th’ Apostate by the brainless rout ador’d

Writhes inly from the bosom-probing glance

As erst that nobler Fiend *MS. Letter, 1794, MS. E.*

14 elder] other *M. C.*

TO LORD STANHOPE<sup>1</sup>

ON READING HIS LATE PROTEST IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

[‘MORNING CHRONICLE,’ JAN. 31, 1795]

STANHOPE! I hail, with ardent Hymn, thy name!  
 Thou shalt be bless’d and lov’d, when in the dust  
 Thy corse shall moulder—Patriot pure and just!  
 And o’er thy tomb the grateful hand of FAME

Shall grave:—‘Here sleeps the Friend of Humankind!’ 5  
 For thou, untainted by CORRUPTION’s bowl,  
 Or foul AMBITION, with undaunted soul  
 Hast spoke the language of a Free-born mind

Pleading the cause of Nature! Still pursue  
 Thy path of Honour!—To thy Country true, 10

Still watch th’ expiring flame of Liberty!  
 O Patriot! still pursue thy virtuous way,  
 As holds his course the splendid Orb of Day,  
 Or thro’ the stormy or the tranquil sky!

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

1795.

TO EARL STANHOPE<sup>2</sup>

NOT, STANHOPE! with the Patriot’s doubtful name  
 I mock thy worth—Friend of the Human Race!  
 Since scorning Faction’s low and partial aim  
 Aloof thou wendest in thy stately pace,

Thyself redeeming from that leprous stain, 5  
 Nobility: and aye unterrify’d  
 Pourest thine Abdiel warnings on the train  
 That sit complotting with rebellious pride

<sup>1</sup> First collected in 1893. Mr. Campbell assigned the authorship of the Sonnet to Coleridge, taking it to be ‘the original of the one to Stanhope printed in the *Poems* of 1796 and 1803’. For ‘Corruption’s bowl’ (l. 6) see *Sonnet to Burke*, line 9 (*ante*, p. 80).

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1796: included in 1803, in Cottle’s *Early Rec.* i. 203, and in *Rem.* 1848, p. 111. First collected in 1852.

'Gainst *Her*<sup>1</sup> who from the Almighty's bosom leapt  
 With whirlwind arm, fierce Minister of Love !  
 Wherefore, ere Virtue o'er thy tomb hath wept,  
 Angels shall lead thee to the Throne above :

10

And thou from forth its clouds shalt hear the voice,  
 Champion of Freedom and her God ! rejoice !

1795.

LINES<sup>2</sup>

## TO A FRIEND IN ANSWER TO A MELANCHOLY LETTER

AWAY, those cloudy looks, that labouring sigh,  
 The peevish offspring of a sickly hour !  
 Nor meanly thus complain of Fortune's power,  
 When the blind Gamester throws a luckless die.

Yon setting Sun flashes a mournful gleam  
 Behind those broken clouds, his stormy train :  
 To-morrow shall the many-colour'd main  
 In brightness roll beneath his orient beam !

5

Wild, as the autumnal gust, the hand of Time  
 Flies o'er his mystic lyre: in shadowy dance  
 The alternate groups of Joy and Grief advance  
 Responsive to his varying strains sublime !

10

Bears on its wing each hour a load of Fate ;  
 The swain, who, lull'd by Seine's mild murmurs, led  
 His weary oxen to their nightly shed,  
 To-day may rule a tempest-troubled State.

15

Nor shall not Fortune with a vengeful smile  
 Survey the sanguinary Despot's might,  
 And haply hurl the Pageant from his height  
 Unwept to wander in some savage isle.

20

There shiv'ring sad beneath the tempest's frown  
 Round his tir'd limbs to wrap the purple vest ;  
 And mix'd with nails and beads, an equal jest !  
 Barter for food, the jewels of his crown.

?1795.

<sup>1</sup> Gallic Liberty.<sup>2</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

TO AN INFANT<sup>1</sup>

Ah ! cease thy tears and sobs, my little Life !  
 I did but snatch away the unclasp'd knife :  
 Some safer toy will soon arrest thine eye,  
 And to quick laughter change this peevish cry !  
 Poor stumbler on the rocky coast of Woe,  
 Tutor'd by Pain each source of pain to know !      5  
 Alike the foodful fruit and scorching fire  
 Awake thy eager grasp and young desire ;  
 Alike the Good, the Ill offend thy sight,  
 And rouse the stormy sense of shrill Affright !      10  
 Untaught, yet wise ! mid all thy brief alarms  
 Thou closely clingest to thy Mother's arms,  
 Nestling thy little face in that fond breast  
 Whose anxious heavings lull thee to thy rest !  
 Man's breathing Miniature ! thou mak'st me sigh—      15  
 A Babe art thou—and such a Thing am I !  
 To anger rapid and as soon appeas'd,  
 For trifles mourning and by trifles pleas'd,  
 Break Friendship's mirror with a tetchy blow,  
 Yet snatch what coals of fire on Pleasure's altar glow !      20

O thou that rearest with celestial aim  
 The future Seraph in my mortal frame,

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1797 (*Supplement*), 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. A MS. version numbering 16 lines is included in the Estlin volume.

*To an Infant—Title] Effusion xxxiv. To an Infant 1796.*

1-10 How yon sweet Child my Bosom's grief beguiles  
   With soul-subduing Eloquence of smiles !  
   Ah lovely Babe ! in thee myself I scan—  
   Thou weepest ! sure those Tears proclaim thee Man !  
   And now some glitt'ring Toy arrests thine eye,  
   And to quick laughter turns the peevish cry.  
   Poor Stumbler on the rocky coast of Woe,  
   Tutor'd by Pain the source of Pain to know !  
   Alike the foodful Fruit and scorching Fire  
   Awake thy eager grasp and young desire ;  
   Alike the Good, the Ill thy aching sight  
   Scare with the keen Emotions of Affright ! *MS. E.*

8-11 Or rouse thy screams, or wake thy young desire :  
   Yet art thou wise, for mid thy brief alarms 1797.

9-10 *om. 1797.*      14 Whose kindly Heavings lull thy cares to Rest  
*MS. E.*      19 tetchy] fretful 1797.

Thrice holy Faith ! whatever thorns I meet  
 As on I totter with unpractis'd feet,  
 Still let me stretch my arms and cling to thee,  
 Meek nurse of souls through their long Infancy !

1795.

25

TO THE REV. W. J. HORT<sup>1</sup>

WHILE TEACHING A YOUNG LADY SOME SONG-TUNES  
 ON HIS FLUTE

## I

HUSH ! ye clamorous Cares ! be mute !  
 Again, dear Harmonist ! again  
 Thro' the hollow of thy flute  
 Breathe that passion-warbled strain :  
 Till Memory each form shall bring  
 The loveliest of her shadowy throng ;  
 And Hope, that soars on sky-lark wing,  
 Carol wild her gladdest song !

5

## II

O skill'd with magic spell to roll  
 The thrilling tones, that concentrate the soul !  
 Breathe thro' thy flute those tender notes again,  
 While near thee sits the chaste-eyed Maiden mild ;  
 And bid her raise the Poet's kindred strain  
 In soft impassion'd voice, correctly wild.

10

## III

In Freedom's UNDIVIDED dell,  
 Where *Toil* and *Health* with mellow'd *Love* shall dwell,  
 Far from folly, far from men,  
 In the rude romantic glen,  
 Up the cliff, and thro' the glade,  
 Wandering with the dear-lov'd maid,  
 I shall listen to the lay,  
 And ponder on thee far away  
 Still, as she bids those thrilling notes aspire  
 (' Making my fond attunéd heart her lyre '),  
 Thy honour'd form, my Friend ! shall reappear,  
 And I will thank thee with a raptur'd tear.

15

20

25

1795.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796, and again in 1863.

To the Rev. W. J. Hort—Title] To the Rev. W. J. H. while Teaching, &amp;c. 1796, 1863.

24 her] his 1863.

PITY<sup>1</sup>

SWEET Mercy ! how my very heart has bled  
 To see thee, poor Old Man ! and thy grey hairs  
 Hoar with the snowy blast: while no one cares  
 To clothe thy shrivell'd limbs and palsied head.  
 My Father ! throw away this tatter'd vest      5  
 That mocks thy shivering ! take my garment—use  
 A young man's arm ! I'll melt these frozen dews  
 That hang from thy white beard and numb thy breast.  
 My Sara too shall tend thee, like a child :  
 And thou shalt talk, in our fireside's recess,      10  
 Of purple Pride, that scowls on Wretchedness —  
 He did not so, the Galilaean mild,  
 Who met the Lazars turn'd from rich men's doors  
 And call'd them Friends, and heal'd their noisome sores !

? 1795.

TO THE NIGHTINGALE<sup>2</sup>

SISTER of love-lorn Poets, Philomel !  
 How many Bards in city garret pent,  
 While at their window they with downward eye  
 Mark the faint lamp-beam on the kennell'd mud,  
 And listen to the drowsy cry of Watchmen      5  
 (Those hoarse unfeather'd Nightingales of Time !),  
 How many wretched Bards address *thy* name,  
 And hers, the full-orb'd Queen that shines above.  
 But I *do* hear thee, and the high bough mark,  
 Within whose mild moon-mellow'd foliage hid      10  
 Thou warblest sad thy pity-pleading strains.  
 O ! I have listen'd, till my working soul,  
 Waked by those strains to thousand phantasies,  
 Absorb'd hath ceas'd to listen ! Therefore oft,  
 I hymn thy name : and with a proud delight      15

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in *Selection of Sonnets, Poems* 1796, in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1803 and in *Lit. Rem.*, i. 38. First collected in 1844.

*Pity*—Title] Effusion xvi. 1796 (*Contents*—To an Old Man): Sonnet vi. 1797 : Sonnet v. 1803 : Sonnet x. 1828, 1829, 1834 : Charity 1893.

7 arm] arms 1796, 1828.

12-14      He did not scowl, the Galilaean mild,  
 Who met the Lazar turn'd from rich man's doors,  
 And call'd him Friend, and wept upon his sores. 1797, 1803.

13 men's] man's 1796, *Selection of Sonnets*, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.  
*To the Nightingale*—Title] Effusion xxiii. To the, &c. 1796.

12 O have I 1796.

Oft will I tell thee, Minstrel of the Moon !  
 ' Most musical, most melancholy ' Bird !  
 That all thy soft diversities of tone,  
 Tho' sweeter far than the delicious airs  
 That vibrate from a white-arm'd Lady's harp,      20  
 What time the languishment of lonely love  
 Melts in her eye, and heaves her breast of snow,  
 Are not so sweet as is the voice of her,  
 My Sara—best beloved of human kind !  
 When breathing the pure soul of tenderness,      25  
 She thrills me with the Husband's promis'd name !  
 1795.

LINES<sup>1</sup>

COMPOSED WHILE CLIMBING THE LEFT ASCENT OF BROCKLEY  
 COOMB, SOMERSETSHIRE, MAY 1795

WITH many a pause and oft reverted eye  
 I climb the Coomb's ascent: sweet songsters near  
 Warble in shade their wild-wood melody :  
 Far off the unvarying Cuckoo soothes my ear.  
 Up scour the startling stragglers of the flock      5  
 That on green plots o'er precipices browze :  
 From the deep fissures of the naked rock  
 The Yew-tree bursts ! Beneath its dark green boughs  
 (Mid which the May-thorn blends its blossoms white)  
 Where broad smooth stones jut out in mossy seats,      10  
 I rest :—and now have gain'd the topmost site.  
 Ah ! what a luxury of landscape meets  
 My gaze ! Proud towers, and Cots more dear to me,  
 Elm-shadow'd Fields, and prospect-bounding Sea !  
 Deep sighs my lonely heart : I drop the tear :      15  
 Enchanting spot ! O were my Sara here !

LINES IN THE MANNER OF SPENSER<sup>2</sup>

O PEACE, that on a lilyed bank dost love  
 To rest thine head beneath an Olive-Tree,  
 I would that from the pinions of thy Dove

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1797 (*Supplement*), 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

*Lines composed, &c.—Title] Effusion xxi. Composed while climbing the Left Ascent of Brockley Coomb, in the County of Somerset, May 1795 1796 : Sonnet v. Composed, &c. 1797 : Sonnet xiv. Composed, &c. 1803.*

*7 deep] forc'd 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.*

*Lines in the Manner, &c.—Title] Effusion xxiv. In the, &c. 1796 : In the, &c. 1797.*

One quill withouten pain ypluck'd might be !  
 For O ! I wish my Sara's frowns to flee,  
 And fain to her some soothing song would write,  
 Lest she resent my rude courtesy,  
 Who vow'd to meet her ere the morning light,  
 But broke my plighted word—ah ! false and recreant wight !

Last night as I my weary head did pillow  
 With thoughts of my dissever'd Fair engross'd,  
 Chill Fancy droop'd wreathing herself with willow,  
 As though my breast entomb'd a pining ghost.  
 'From some blest couch, young Rapture's bridal boast,  
 Rejected Slumber ! hither wing thy way ;

But leave me with the matin hour, at most !  
 As night-clos'd floweret to the orient ray,  
 My sad heart will expand, when I the Maid survey.'  
 But Love, who heard the silence of my thought,  
 Contriv'd a too successful wile, I ween :  
 And whisper'd to himself, with malice fraught—  
 'Too long our Slave the Damsel's *smiles* hath seen :  
 To-morrow shall he ken her alter'd mien !'

He spake, and ambush'd lay, till on my bed  
 The morning shot her dewy glances keen,  
 When as I 'gan to lift my drowsy head—  
 'Now, Bard ! I'll work thee woe !' the laughing Elfin said.

Sleep, softly-breathing God ! his downy wing  
 Was fluttering now, as quickly to depart ;  
 When twang'd an arrow from Love's mystic string,  
 With pathless wound it pierc'd him to the heart.

Was there some magic in the Elfin's dart ?  
 Or did he strike my couch with wizard lance ?  
 For straight so fair a Form did upwards start  
 (No fairer deck'd the bowers of old Romance) That Sleep enamour'd grew, nor mov'd from his sweet trance !

My Sara came, with gentlest look divine ;  
 Bright shone her eye, yet tender was its beam :  
 I felt the pressure of her lip to mine !  
 Whispering we went, and Love was all our theme—  
 Love pure and spotless, as at first, I deem,

He sprang from Heaven ! Such joys with Sleep did 'bide,  
 That I the living Image of my Dream

17 Like snowdrop opening to the solar ray, 1796. 19 'heard the  
 silence of my thought' 1797, 1803. - 26 to lift] uplift 1797, 1803.

Fondly forgot. Too late I woke, and sigh'd—  
 'O! how shall I behold my Love at eventide!'  
 1795.

45

THE HOUR WHEN WE SHALL MEET AGAIN<sup>1</sup>

(Composed during Illness, and in Absence.)

DIM Hour! that sleep'st on pillowing clouds afar,  
 O rise and yoke the Turtles to thy car!  
 Bend o'er the traces, blame each lingering Dove,  
 And give me to the bosom of my Love!  
 My gentle Love, caressing and carest,  
 With heaving heart shall cradle me to rest!  
 Shed the warm tear-drop from her smiling eyes,  
 Lull with fond woe, and medicine me with sighs!  
 While finely-flushing float her kisses meek,  
 Like melted rubies, o'er my pallid cheek.  
 Chill'd by the night, the drooping Rose of May  
 Mourns the long absence of the lovely Day;  
 Young Day returning at her promis'd hour  
 Weeps o'er the sorrows of her favourite Flower;  
 Weeps the soft dew, the balmy gale she sighs,  
 And darts a trembling lustre from her eyes.  
 New life and joy th' expanding flow'ret feels:  
 His pitying Mistress mourns, and mourning heals!

? 1795.

5

10

15

LINES<sup>2</sup>

WRITTEN AT SHURTON BARS, NEAR BRIDgewater, SEPTEMBER  
 1795, IN ANSWER TO A LETTER FROM BRISTOL

Good verse *most* good, and bad verse then seems better  
 Receiv'd from absent friend by way of Letter.  
 For what so sweet can labour'd lays impart  
 As one rude rhyme warm from a friendly heart?—ANON.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *The Watchman*, No. III, March 9, 1796 (*signed C.*): included in 1797, 1803, 1844, and 1852. It was first reprinted, after 1803, in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 43, under 'the sportive title "Darwiniana", on the supposition that it was written' in half-mockery of Darwin's style with its *dulcia vitia*. (See 1852, *Notes*, p. 885.)

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1796: included in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

*Below l. 45 July 1795 1797, 1803.*

*The Hour, &c.—Title] Darwiniana. The Hour, &c. L. R., 1844: Composed during illness and absence 1852.*

*9-10 om. 1803. 14 her] the Lit. Rem., 1844, 1852. 17 New] Now Watchman.*

*Lines written, &c.—Title] Epistle I. Lines written, &c. The motto is printed on the reverse of the half-title 'Poetical Epistles' [pp. 109, 110],*

Nor travels my meandering eye  
 The starry wilderness on high ;  
     Nor now with curious sight  
 I mark the glow-worm, as I pass,  
 Move with 'green radiance'<sup>1</sup> through the grass,       5  
     An emerald of light.

O ever present to my view !  
 My wafted spirit is with you,  
     And soothes your boding fears :  
 I see you all oppressed with gloom       10  
 Sit lonely in that cheerless room—  
     Ah me ! You are in tears !

Belovéd Woman ! did you fly  
 Chill'd Friendship's dark disliking eye,  
     Or Mirth's untimely din ?       15  
 With cruel weight these trifles press  
 A temper sore with tenderness,  
     When aches the void within.

But why with sable wand unblessed  
 Should Fancy rouse within my breast  
     Dim-visag'd shapes of Dread ?       20  
 Untenanting its beauteous clay  
 My Sara's soul has wing'd its way,  
     And hovers round my head !

<sup>1</sup> The expression 'green radiance' is borrowed from Mr. Wordsworth, a Poet whose versification is occasionally harsh and his diction too frequently obscure ; but whom I deem unrivalled among the writers of the present day in manly sentiment, novel imagery, and vivid colouring. Note, 1796, p. 185 : Footnote, 1797, p. 88.

[The phrase 'green radiance' occurs in *An Evening Walk*, ll. 264-8, first published in 1793, and reprinted in 1820. In 1836 the lines were omitted.

Oft has she taught them on her lap to play  
 Delighted with the glow-worm's harmless ray,  
 Toss'd light from hand to hand ; while on the ground  
 Small circles of green radiance gleam around.]

1796 : Ode to Sara, written at Shurton Bars, &c. 1797, 1803. The motto is omitted in 1797, 1803 : The motto is prefixed to the poem in 1828, 1829, and 1834. In 1797 and 1803 a note is appended to the title :—Note. *The first stanza alludes to a Passage in the Letter.* [The allusions to a 'Passage in the Letter' must surely be contained not in the first but in the second and third stanzas. The reference is, no doubt, to the alienation from Southey, which must have led to a difference of feeling between the two sisters Sarah and Edith Fricker.]

I felt it prompt the tender Dream,  
When slowly sank the day's last gleam ;

You rous'd each gentler sense,  
As sighing o'er the Blossom's bloom  
Meek Evening wakes its soft perfume  
With viewless influence.

And hark, my Love ! The sea-breeze moans  
Through yon reft house ! O'er rolling stones

In bold ambitious sweep  
The onward-surfing tides supply  
The silence of the cloudless sky

With mimic thunders deep.  
Dark reddening from the channell'd Isle<sup>1</sup>  
(Where stands one solitary pile

Unslated by the blast)  
The Watchfire, like a sullen star  
Twinkles to many a dozing Tar  
Rude cradled on the mast.

Even there—beneath that light-house tower—  
In the tumultuous evil hour

Ere Peace with Sara came,  
Time was, I should have thought it sweet  
To count the echoings of my feet,  
And watch the storm-vex'd flame.

And there in black soul-jaundic'd fit  
A sad gloom-pamper'd Man to sit,  
And listen to the roar:

When mountain surges bellowing deep  
With an uncouth monster-leap

Plung'd foaming on the shore.  
Then by the lightning's blaze to mark  
Some toiling tempest-shatter'd bark ;

Her vain distress-guns hear ;  
And when a second sheet of light  
Flash'd o'er the blackness of the night—

To see no vessel there !  
But Fancy now more gaily sings ;  
Or if awhile she droop her wings,

As skylarks 'mid the corn,

<sup>1</sup> The Holmes, in the Bristol Channel.

26 sank] sunk 1796-1829.

34 fast-encroaching 1797, 1803.

49 black and jaundic'd fit 1797.

33 With broad impetuous 1797, 1805.

48 storm-vex'd] troubled 1797, 1803.

On summer fields she grounds her breast :  
The oblivious poppy o'er her nest  
    Nods, till returning morn.

O mark those smiling tears, that swell  
The open'd rose ! From heaven they fell,  
    And with the sun-beam blend.  
Blest visitations from above,  
Such are the tender woes of Love  
    Fostering the heart they bend !

When stormy Midnight howling round  
Beats on our roof with clattering sound,  
    To me your arms you'll stretch :  
Great God ! you'll say—To us so kind,  
O shelter from this loud bleak wind  
    The houseless, friendless wretch !

The tears that tremble down your cheek,  
Shall bathe my kisses chaste and meek  
    In Pity's dew divine ;  
And from your heart the sighs that steal  
Shall make your rising bosom feel  
    The answering swell of mine !

How oft, my Love ! with shapings sweet  
I paint the moment, we shall meet !  
    With eager speed I dart—  
I seize you in the vacant air,  
And fancy, with a husband's care  
    I press you to my heart !

'Tis said, in Summer's evening hour  
Flashes the golden-colour'd flower  
    A fair electric flame :<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> LIGHT from plants. In Sweden a very curious phenomenon has been observed on certain flowers, by M. Haggern, lecturer in natural history. One evening he perceived a faint flash of light repeatedly dart from a marigold. Surprised at such an uncommon appearance, he resolved to examine it with attention ; and, to be assured it was no deception of the eye, he placed a man near him, with orders to make a signal at the moment when he observed the light. They both saw it constantly at the same moment.

The light was most brilliant on marigolds of an orange or flame colour ; but scarcely visible on pale ones. The flash was frequently seen on the same flower two or three times in quick succession ; but more commonly at intervals of several minutes ; and when several flowers in the same

And so shall flash my love-charg'd eye  
 When all the heart's big ecstasy  
 Shoots rapid through the frame !

1795.

95

THE EOLIAN HARP<sup>1</sup>

COMPOSED AT CLEVEDON, SOMERSETSHIRE

My pensive Sara ! thy soft cheek reclined  
 Thus on mine arm, most soothing sweet it is  
 To sit beside our Cot, our Cot o'ergrown  
 With white-flower'd Jasmin, and the broad-leav'd Myrtle,  
 (Meet emblems they of Innocence and Love !) 5  
 And watch the clouds, that late were rich with light,  
 Slow saddening round, and mark the star of eve  
 Serenely brilliant (such should Wisdom be)  
 Shine opposite ! How exquisite the scents  
 Snatch'd from yon bean-field ! and the world so hush'd ! 10  
 The stilly murmur of the distant Sea  
 Tells us of silence.

And that simplest Lute,

Placed length-ways in the clasping casement, hark !

place emitted their light together, it could be observed at a considerable distance.

This phenomenon was remarked in the months of July and August at sun-set, and for half an hour when the atmosphere was clear; but after a rainy day, or when the air was loaded with vapours nothing of it was seen.

The following flowers emitted flashes, more or less vivid, in this order :—

1. The marigold, *galendula* [*sic*] *officinalis*.
2. Monk's-hood, *tropaeolum* [*sic*] *majus*.
3. The orange-lily, *lilium bulbiferum*.
4. The Indian pink, *tagetes patula et erecta*.

From the rapidity of the flash, and other circumstances, it may be conjectured that there is something of electricity in this phenomenon. Notes to *Poems*, 1796. Note 13, pp. 186, 188.

In 1797 the above was printed as a footnote on pp. 93, 94. In 1803 the last stanza, lines 91–96, was omitted, and, of course, the note disappeared. In 1828, 1829, and 1834 the last stanza was replaced but the note was not reprinted.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1797, 1803, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

*The Eolian Harp—Title] Effusion xxxv. Composed August 20th, 1795, At Clevedon, Somersetshire 1796 : Composed at Clevedon Somersetshire 1797, 1803 : The Eolian Harp. Composed, &c. S. L. 1817, 1828, 1829, 1834.*

*5 om. 1803. 8 om. 1803. 11 Hark ! the still murmur 1803. 12 And th' Eolian Lute, 1803. 13 om. 1803.*

How by the desultory breeze caress'd,  
 Like some coy maid half yielding to her lover,      15  
 It pours such sweet upbraiding, as must needs  
 Tempt to repeat the wrong! And now, its strings  
 Boldlier swept, the long sequacious notes  
 Over delicious surges sink and rise,  
 Such a soft floating witchery of sound      20  
 As twilight Elfins make, when they at eve  
 Voyage on gentle gales from Fairy-Land,  
 Where Melodies round honey-dropping flowers,  
 Footless and wild, like birds of Paradise,  
 Nor pause, nor perch, hovering on untam'd wing !      25  
 O ! the one Life within us and abroad,  
 Which meets all motion and becomes its soul,  
 A light in sound, a sound-like power in light,  
 Rhythm in all thought, and joyance every where—  
 Methinks, it should have been impossible      30  
 Not to love all things in a world so fill'd ;  
 Where the breeze warbles, and the mute still air  
 Is Music slumbering on her instrument.

And thus, my Love ! as on the midway slope  
 Of yonder hill I stretch my limbs at noon,      35  
 Whilst through my half-clos'd eye-lids I behold  
 The sunbeams dance, like diamonds, on the main,  
 And tranquil muse upon tranquillity ;  
 Full many a thought uncall'd and undetain'd,  
 And many idle flitting phantasies,      40

16 upbraiding] upbraidings 1796, 1797, 1803, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817. Lines 21-33 are om. in 1803, and the text reads :

*Such a soft floating witchery of sound—*  
 Methinks, it should have been impossible  
 Not to love all things in a World like this,  
 Where e'en the Breezes of the simple Air  
 Possess the power and Spirit of Melody !  
*And thus, my Love, &c.*

26-33 are not in 1796, 1797. In *Sibylline Leaves*, for lines 26-33 of the text, four lines are inserted :

Methinks it should have been impossible  
 Not to love all things in a world like this,  
 Where even the breezes, and the common air,  
 Contain the power and spirit of Harmony.

Lines 26-33 were first included in the text in 1828, and reappeared in 1829 and 1834. They are supplied in the *Errata*, pp. [xi, xii], of *Sibylline Leaves*, with a single variant (l. 33) : Is Music slumbering on its instrument.

Traverse my indolent and passive brain,  
As wild and various as the random gales  
That swell and flutter on this subject Lute !

And what if all of animated nature  
Be but organic Harps diversely fram'd,  
That tremble into thought, as o'er them sweeps  
Plastic and vast, one intellectual breeze,  
At once the Soul of each, and God of all ?

But thy more serious eye a mild reproof  
Darts, O belovéd Woman ! nor such thoughts  
Dim and unhallow'd dost thou not reject,  
And biddest me walk humbly with my God.  
Meek Daughter in the family of Christ !  
Well hast thou said and holily disprais'd  
These shapings of the unregenerate mind ;  
Bubbles that glitter as they rise and break  
On vain Philosophy's aye-babbling spring.  
For never guiltless may I speak of him,  
The Incomprehensible ! save when with awe  
I praise him, and with Faith that inly *feels* ;<sup>1</sup>  
Who with his saving mercies healéd me,  
A sinful and most miserable man,  
Wilder'd and dark, and gave me to possess  
Peace, and this Cot, and thee, heart-honour'd Maid !

1795.

TO THE AUTHOR OF POEMS<sup>2</sup>

[JOSEPH COTTLE]

PUBLISHED ANONYMOUSLY AT BRISTOL IN SEPTEMBER 1795

UNBOASTFUL BARD ! whose verse concise yet clear  
Tunes to smooth melody unconquer'd sense,

<sup>1</sup> L'athée n'est point à mes yeux un faux esprit ; je puis vivre avec lui aussi bien et mieux qu'avec le dévot, car il raisonne davantage, mais il lui manque un sens, et mon ame ne se fond point entièrement avec la sienne : il est froid au spectacle le plus ravissant, et il cherche un syllogisme lorsque je rends une [un 1797, 1803] action de grace. 'Appel à l'impartiale postérité', par la Citoyenne Roland, troisième partie, p. 67. Notes to *Poems*. Note 10, 1796, p. 183. The above was printed as a footnote to p. 99, 1797, and to p. 132, 1803.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1797 (*Supplement*), 1803, and 1852.

44 And] Or 1796, 1797, 1803. 64 dear honoured Maid 1893.

To the Author of Poems—Title] Epistle iv. To the Author, &c. 1796 : Lines to Joseph Cottle 1797 : To the Author, &c., with footnote, 'Mr. Joseph Cottle' 1803.

<sup>1</sup> Unboastful Bard] My honor'd friend 1797.

May your fame fadeless live, as ‘never-sere’  
 The Ivy wreathes yon Oak, whose broad defence  
 Embowers me from Noon’s sultry influence ! 5  
 For, like that nameless Rivulet stealing by,  
 Your modest verse to musing Quiet dear  
 Is rich with tints heaven-borrow’d : the charm’d eye  
 Shall gaze undazzled there, and love the soften’d sky.

Circling the base of the Poetic mount 10  
 A stream there is, which rolls in lazy flow  
 Its coal-black waters from Oblivion’s fount :  
 The vapour-poison’d Birds, that fly too low,  
 Fall with dead swoop, and to the bottom go.  
 Escaped that heavy stream on pinion fleet 15  
 Beneath the Mountain’s lofty-frowning brow,  
 Ere aught of perilous ascent you meet,  
 A mead of mildest charm delays th’ unlabouring feet.

Not there the cloud-climb’d rock, sublime and vast,  
 That like some giant king, o’erglooms the hill ; 20  
 Nor there the Pine-grove to the midnight blast  
 Makes solemn music ! But th’ unceasing rill  
 To the soft Wren or Lark’s descending trill  
 Murmurs sweet undersong ’mid jasmin bowers.  
 In this same pleasant meadow, at your will 25  
 I ween, you wander’d—there collecting flowers  
 Of sober tint, and herbs of med’cinal powers !

There for the monarch-murder’d Soldier’s tomb  
 You wove th’ unfinish’d<sup>1</sup> wreath of saddest hues ;  
 And to that holier<sup>2</sup> chaplet added bloom 30  
 Besprinkling it with Jordan’s cleansing dews.  
 But lo your Henderson<sup>3</sup> awakes the Muse—  
 His Spirit beckon’d from the mountain’s height !  
 You left the plain and soar’d mid richer views !

‘The first in order of the verses which I have thus endeavoured to reprieve from immediate oblivion was originally addressed “To the Author of Poems published anonymously at Bristol”. A second edition of these poems has lately appeared with the Author’s name prefixed : and I could not refuse myself the gratification of seeing the name of that man among my poems without whose kindness they would probably have remained unpublished ; and to whom I know myself greatly and variously obliged, as a Poet, a man, and a Christian.’ ‘Advertisement’ to *Supplement*, 1797, pp. 243, 244.

<sup>1</sup> ‘War,’ a Fragment.

<sup>2</sup> ‘John Baptist,’ a poem.

<sup>3</sup> ‘Monody on John Henderson.’

So Nature mourn'd when sunk the First Day's light,      35  
With stars, unseen before, spangling her robe of night!

Still soar, my Friend, those richer views among,  
Strong, rapid, fervent, flashing Fancy's beam!  
Virtue and Truth shall love your gentler song;  
But Poesy demands th' impassion'd theme:      40  
Waked by Heaven's silent dews at Eve's mild gleam  
What balmy sweets Pomona breathes around!  
But if the vext air rush a stormy stream  
Or Autumn's shrill gust moan in plaintive sound,  
With fruits and flowers she loads the tempest-honor'd ground.

1795.

THE SILVER THIMBLE<sup>1</sup>

THE PRODUCTION OF A YOUNG LADY, ADDRESSED TO THE  
AUTHOR OF THE POEMS ALLUDED TO IN THE PRECEDING EPISTLE

*She had lost her Silver Thimble, and her complaint being accidentally overheard by him, her Friend, he immediately sent her four others to take her choice of.*

As oft mine eye with careless glance  
Has gallop'd thro' some old romance,  
Of speaking Birds and Steeds with wings,  
Giants and Dwarfs, and Fiends and Kings;      5  
Beyond the rest with more attentive care  
I've lov'd to read of elfin-favour'd Fair—  
How if she long'd for aught beneath the sky  
And suffer'd to escape one votive sigh,  
Wafted along on viewless pinions airy  
It laid itself obsequious at her feet:      10  
Such things, I thought, one might not hope to meet  
Save in the dear delicious land of Faery!  
But now (by proof I know it well)  
There's still some peril in free wishing—  
*Politeness is a licensed spell,*      15  
And you, dear Sir! the Arch-magician.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796: included for the first time in Appendix to 1863. Mrs. Coleridge told her daughter (*Biog. Lit.*, 1847, ii. 411) that she wrote but little of these verses.

35 sunk] sank 1797.

*The Silver Thimble*—Title] Epistle v. The Production of a Young Lady, &c.  
1796: From a Young Lady Appendix, 1863.

You much perplex'd me by the various set :  
 They were indeed an elegant quartette !  
 My mind went to and fro, and waver'd long ;  
 At length I've chosen (Samuel thinks me wrong)      20  
*That*, around whose azure rim  
 Silver figures seem to swim,  
 Like fleece-white clouds, that on the skiey Blue,  
 Waked by no breeze, the self-same shapes retain ;  
 Or ocean-Nymphs with limbs of snowy hue      25  
 Slow-floating o'er the calm cerulean plain.

Just such a one, *mon cher ami*,  
 (The finger shield of industry)  
 Th' inventive Gods, I deem, to Pallas gave  
 What time the vain Arachne, madly brave,      30  
 Challeng'd the blue-eyed Virgin of the sky  
 A duel in embroider'd work to try.  
 And hence the thimbled Finger of grave Pallas  
 To th' erring Needle's point was more than callous.  
 But ah the poor Arachne ! She unarm'd      35  
 Blundering thro' hasty eagerness, alarm'd  
 With all a *Rival's* hopes, a *Mortal's* fears,  
 Still miss'd the stitch, and stain'd the web with tears.  
 Unnumber'd punctures small yet sore  
 Full fretfully the maiden bore,      40  
 Till she her lily finger found  
 Crimson'd with many a tiny wound ;  
 And to her eyes, suffus'd with watery woe,  
 Her flower-embroider'd web danc'd dim, I wist,  
 Like blossom'd shrubs in a quick-moving mist :      45  
 Till vanquish'd the despairing Maid sunk low.

O Bard ! whom sure no common Muse inspires,  
 I heard your Verse that glows with vestal fires !  
 And I from unwatch'd needle's erring point  
 Had surely suffer'd on each finger-joint      50  
 Those wounds, which erst did poor Arachne meet ;  
 While he, the much-lov'd Object of my choice  
 (My bosom thrilling with enthusiast heat),  
 Pour'd on mine ear with deep impressive voice,  
 How the great Prophet of the Desart stood      55  
 And preach'd of Penitence by Jordan's Flood ;  
 On War ; or else the legendary lays  
 In simplest measures hymn'd to Alla's praise ;

Or what the Bard from his heart's inmost stores  
 O'er his *Friend's* grave in loftier numbers pours:      60  
 Yes, Bard polite! you but obey'd the laws  
 Of Justice, when the thimble you had sent;  
 What wounds your thought-bewildering Muse might cause  
 'Tis well your finger-shielding gifts prevent.      SARA.  
 1795.

### REFLECTIONS ON HAVING LEFT A PLACE OF RETIREMENT<sup>1</sup>

Sermoni propria.—HOR.

Low was our pretty Cot: our tallest Rose  
 Peep'd at the chamber-window. We could hear  
 At silent noon, and eve, and early morn,  
 The Sea's faint murmur. In the open air  
 Our Myrtles blossom'd; and across the porch      5  
 Thick Jasmins twined: the little landscape round  
 Was green and woody, and refresh'd the eye.  
 It was a spot which you might aptly call  
 The Valley of Seclusion! Once I saw  
 (Hallowing his Sabbath-day by quietness)      10  
 A wealthy son of Commerce saunter by,  
 Bristowa's citizen: methought, it calm'd  
 His thirst of idle gold, and made him muse  
 With wiser feelings: for he paus'd, and look'd  
 With a pleas'd sadness, and gaz'd all around,      15  
 Then eyed our Cottage, and gaz'd round again,  
 And sigh'd, and said, it was a Blesséd Place.  
 And we were bless'd. Oft with patient ear  
 Long-listening to the viewless sky-lark's note  
 (Viewless, or haply for a moment seen      20  
 Gleaming on sunny wings) in whisper'd tones

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Monthly Magazine*, October, 1796, vol. ii, p. 712: included in 1797, 1803, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

*Reflections, &c.—Title]* Reflections on entering into active life. A Poem which affects not to be Poetry *M. Mag.* The motto was prefixed in 1797.

12-17 Bristowa's citizen—he paus'd and look'd  
 With a pleased sadness and gaz'd all around,  
 Then eye'd our cottage and gaz'd round again,  
 And said it was a *blessed little place*. *Monthly Magazine*.

17 And sigh'd, and said, *it was a blessed place*. 1797, 1803.

21 wings] wing *M. M.*, 1797, 1803, *S. L.*

21-3 Gleaming on sunny wing,) 'And such,' I said,  
 'The inobtrusive song 1803.

I've said to my Belovéd, 'Such, sweet Girl !  
 The inobtrusive song of Happiness,  
 Uneathly minstrelsy ! then only heard  
 When the Soul seeks to hear ; when all is hush'd,25  
 And the Heart listens !'

But the time, when first  
 From that low Dell, steep up the stony Mount  
 I climb'd with perilous toil and reach'd the top,  
 Oh ! what a goodly scene ! *Here* the bleak mount,  
 The bare bleak mountain speckled thin with sheep ;30  
 Grey clouds, that shadowing spot the sunny fields ;  
 And river, now with bushy rocks o'er-brow'd,  
 Now winding bright and full, with naked banks ;  
 And seats, and lawns, the Abbey and the wood,  
 And cots, and hamlets, and faint city-spire ;35  
 The Channel *there*, the Islands and white sails,  
 Dim coasts, and cloud-like hills, and shoreless Ocean—  
 It seem'd like Omnipresence ! God, methought,  
 Had built him there a Temple : the whole World  
 Seem'd *imag'd* in its vast circumference :40  
 No *wish* profan'd my overwhelméd heart.  
 Blest hour ! It was a luxury,—to be !

Ah ! quiet Dell ! dear Cot, and Mount sublime !  
 I was constrain'd to quit you. Was it right,  
 While my unnumber'd brethren toil'd and bled,45  
 That I should dream away the entrusted hours  
 On rose-leaf beds, pampering the coward heart  
 With feelings all too delicate for use ?  
 Sweet is the tear that from some Howard's eye  
 Drops on the cheek of one he lifts from earth :50  
 And he that works me good with unmov'd face,  
 Does it but half : he chills me while he aids,  
 My benefactor, not my brother man !  
 Yet even this, this cold beneficence  
 Praise, praise it, O my Soul ! oft as thou scann'st55  
 The slaggard Pity's vision-weaving tribe !  
 Who sigh for Wretchedness, yet shun the Wretched,  
 Nursing in some delicious solitude  
 Their slothful loves and dainty sympathies !

<sup>40</sup> Was *imag'd* *M. M.*      <sup>46</sup> entrusted] trusted *M. M.*, 1797.      55  
 Seizes my Praise, when I reflect on those 1797, 1803, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817  
 (line as in text supplied in *Errata*).

I therefore go, and join head, heart, and hand,  
Active and firm, to fight the bloodless fight  
Of Science, Freedom, and the Truth in Christ.

60

Yet oft when after honourable toil  
Rests the tir'd mind, and waking loves to dream,  
My spirit shall revisit thee, dear Cot !  
Thy Jasmin and thy window-peeping Rose,  
And Myrtles fearless of the mild sea-air.  
And I shall sigh fond wishes—sweet Abode !  
Ah !—had none greater ! And that all had such !  
It might be so—but the time is not yet.  
Speed it, O Father ! Let thy Kingdom come !

65

70

1795.

RELIGIOUS MUSINGS<sup>1</sup>

A DESULTORY POEM, WRITTEN ON THE CHRISTMAS EVE OF 1794

THIS is the time, when most divine to hear,  
The voice of Adoration rouses me,

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1796 : included in 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834. Lines 260–357 were published in *The Watchman*, No. II, March 9, 1796, entitled ‘The Present State of Society’. In the editions of 1796, 1797, and 1803 the following lines, an adaptation of a passage in the First Book of Akenside’s *Pleasures of the Imagination*, were prefixed as a motto :—

What tho’ first,  
In years unseason’d, I attun’d the lay  
To idle Passion and unreal Woe ?  
Yet serious Truth her empire o’er my song  
Hath now asserted ; Falsehood’s evil brood,  
Vice and deceitful Pleasure, she at once  
Excluded, and my Fancy’s careless toil  
Drew to the better cause !

An ‘Argument’ followed on a separate page :—

Introduction. Person of Christ. His prayer on the Cross. The process of his Doctrines on the mind of the Individual. Character of the Elect. Superstition. Digression to the present War. Origin and Uses of Government and Property. The present State of Society. The French Revolution. Millenium. Universal Redemption. Conclusion.

69 none] none M. M. all] all M. M. 70-1 om. 1803.

*Religious Musings*—Title] — on Christmas Eve. In the year of Our Lord, 1794.

This is the time, when most divine to hear,  
As with a Cherub’s ‘loud uplifted’ trump  
The voice of Adoration my thrill’d heart  
Rouses ! And with the rushing noise of wings

As with a Cherub's trump: and high upborne,  
 Yea, mingling with the Choir, I seem to view  
 The vision of the heavenly multitude,  
 Who hymned the song of Peace o'er Bethlehem's fields ! 5  
 Yet thou more bright than all the Angel-blaze,  
 That harbingered thy birth, Thou Man of Woes !  
 Despiséd Galilaean ! For the Great  
 Invisible (by symbols only seen) 10  
 With a peculiar and surpassing light  
 Shines from the visage of the oppressed good man,  
 When heedless of himself the scourgéd saint  
 Mourns for the oppressor. Fair the vernal mead,  
 Fair the high grove, the sea, the sun, the stars ; 15  
 True impress each of their creating Sire !  
 Yet nor high grove, nor many-colour'd mead,  
 Nor the green ocean with his thousand isles,

Transports my spirit to the favor'd fields 5  
 Of Bethlehem, there in shepherd's guise to sit  
 Sublime of extacy, and mark entranc'd  
 The glory-streaming Vision throng the night.\*  
 Ah not more radiant, nor loud harmonies  
 Hymning more unimaginably sweet 10  
 With choral songs around th' ETERNAL MIND,  
 The constellated company of WORLDS  
 Danc'd jubilant: what time the startling East  
 Saw from her dark womb leap her flamy child !  
 Glory to God in the Highest ! PEACE on Earth ! 15  
 Yet thou more bright than all that Angel Blaze,  
 Despiséd GALILEAN ! Man of Woes !  
 For chiefly in the oppressed Good Man's face  
 The Great Invisible (by symbols seen)  
 Shines with peculiar and concentrated light, 20  
 When all of Self regardless the scourg'd Saint  
 Mourns for th' oppressor. O thou meekest Man !  
 Meek Man and lowliest of the Sons of Men ! 25  
 Who thee beheld thy imag'd Father saw.†  
 His Power and Wisdom from thy awful eye  
 Blended their beams, and loftier Love sat there  
 Musing on human weal, and that dread hour 30  
*When thy insulted, &c. 1796.*

\* And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly Host, praising God and saying glory to God in the highest and on earth peace. Luke ii. 13 1796.

† Philip saith unto him, Lord ! shew us the Father and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip ? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father. John xiv. 9 1796.

7 Angel-blaze] Angel-Host 1803.

Nor the starred azure, nor the sovran sun,  
 E'er with such majesty of portraiture  
 Imaged the supreme beauty uncreate,  
 As thou, meek Saviour ! at the fearful hour  
 When thy insulted anguish winged the prayer  
 Harped by Archangels, when they sing of mercy !  
 Which when the Almighty heard from forth his throne 25  
 Diviner light filled Heaven with ecstasy !  
 Heaven's hymnings paused : and Hell her yawning mouth  
 Closed a brief moment.

Lovely was the death  
 Of Him whose life was Love ! Holy with power  
 He on the thought-benighted Sceptic beamed 30  
 Manifest Godhead, melting into day  
 What floating mists of dark idolatry  
 Broke and misshaped the omnipresent Sire :<sup>1</sup>  
 And first by Fear uncharmed the drowséd Soul.  
 Till of its nobler nature it 'gan feel  
 Dim recollections ; and thence soared to Hope,  
 Strong to believe whate'er of mystic good  
 The Eternal dooms for His immortal sons.  
 From Hope and firmer Faith to perfect Love  
 Attracted and absorbed : and centered there 40  
 God only to behold, and know, and feel,  
 Till by exclusive consciousness of God  
 All self-annihilated it shall make<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Τὸ Νοητὸν διηρήκασιν εἰς πολλῶν Θεῶν ἰδότητας. DAMAS. DE MYST. AEGYPT. Footnote to line 34, 1797, 1803, 1823, 1829. [This note, which should be attached to l. 33, is a comment on the original line 'Split and mishap'd' &c., of 1796. The quotation as translated reads thus:—'Men have split up the Intelligible One into the peculiar attributes of Gods many'.]

<sup>2</sup> See this demonstrated by Hartley, vol. 1, p. 114, and vol. 2, p. 329. See it likewise proved, and freed from the charge of Mysticism, by Pistorius in his Notes and Additions to part second of Hartley on Man, Addition the 18th, the 653rd page of the third volume of Hartley, Octavo Edition. Note to line 44, 1797. [David Hartley's *Observations on Man* were published in 1749. His son republished them in 1791, with Notes, &c., from the German of H. A. Pistorius, Pastor and Provost of the Synod at Poseritz in the Island of Rügen.]

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26	Diviner light flash'd extacy o'er Heaven ! 1796.
32-4	What mists dim-floating of Idolatry Split and mishap'd the Omnipresent Sire : And first by Terror, Mercy's startling prelude, Uncharm'd the Spirit spell-bound with earthly lusts. 1796.
39	From Hope and stronger Faith to perfect Love 1796.

God its Identity: God all in all!

We and our Father one!

And blest are they,

45

Who in this fleshly World, the elect of Heaven,  
Their strong eye darting through the deeds of men,  
Adore with steadfast unpresuming gaze  
Him Nature's essence, mind, and energy!

And gazing, trembling, patiently ascend

50

Treading beneath their feet all visible things  
As steps, that upward to their Father's throne  
Lead gradual—else nor glorified nor loved.

They nor contempt embosom nor revenge:

For they dare know of what may seem deform  
The Supreme Fair sole operant: in whose sight  
All things are pure, his strong controlling love  
Alike from all educing perfect good.

Their's too celestial courage, inly armed—

Dwarfing Earth's giant brood, what time they muse  
On their great Father, great beyond compare!  
And marching onwards view high o'er their heads  
His waving banners of Omnipotence.

Who the Creator love, created Might

Dread not: within their tents no Terrors walk.

65

For they are holy things before the Lord

Aye unprofaned, though Earth should league with Hell;

God's altar grasping with an eager hand

Fear, the wild-visag'd, pale, eye-starting wretch,

Sure-refug'd hears his hot pursuing fiends

70

54 embosom] imbosom 1796, 1797, 1803.

64-71 They cannot dread created might, who love

God the Creator! fair and lofty thought!

It lifts and swells my heart! and as I muse,

Behold a Vision gathers in my soul,

Voices and shadowy shapes! In human guise

I seem to see the phantom, FEAR, pass by,

Hotly-pursued, and pale! From rock to rock

He bounds with bleeding feet, and thro' the swamp,

The quicksand and the groaning wilderness,

Struggles with feebler and yet feebler flight.

But lo! an altar in the wilderness,

And eagerly yet feebly lo! he grasps

The altar of the living God! and there

With wan reverted face the trembling wretch

All wildly list'ning to his Hunter-fiends

Stands, till the last faint echo of their yell

Dies in the distance. Soon refresh'd from Heaven &c. 1803.

Yell at vain distance. Soon refresh'd from Heaven  
He calms the throb and tempest of his heart.  
His countenance settles; a soft solemn bliss  
Swims in his eye—his swimming eye uprais'd:  
And Faith's whole armour glitters on his limbs!

75

And thus transfigured with a dreadless awe,  
A solemn hush of soul, meek he beholds  
All things of terrible seeming: yea, unmoved  
Views e'en the immitigable ministers  
That shower down vengeance on these latter days.

80

For kindling with intenser Deity  
From the celestial Mercy-seat they come,  
And at the renovating wells of Love  
Have fill'd their vials with salutary wrath,<sup>1</sup>  
To sickly Nature more medicinal

85

Than what soft balm the weeping good man pours  
Into the lone despoil'd traveller's wounds!

Thus from the Elect, regenerate through faith,  
Pass the dark Passions and what thirsty cares<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> And I heard a great voice out of the Temple saying to the seven Angels, pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. Revelation, xvi. 1. Note to line 91, Notes, 1796, p. 90.

<sup>2</sup> Our evil Passions, under the influence of Religion, become innocent, and may be made to animate our virtue—in the same manner as the thick mist melted by the Sun, increases the light which it had before excluded. In the preceding paragraph, agreeably to this truth, we had allegorically narrated the transfiguration of Fear into holy Awe. Footnote to line 91, 1797 : to line 101, 1803.

74-7      Swims in his eyes: his swimming eyes uprais'd:  
And Faith's whole armour girds his limbs! And thus  
Transfigur'd, with a meek and dreadless awe,  
A solemn hush of spirit he beholds 1803.

78-84      Yea, and there,  
Unshudder'd unaghasted, he shall view  
E'en the SEVEN SPIRITS, who in the latter day  
Will shower hot pestilence on the sons of men,  
For he shall know, his heart shall understand,  
That kindling with intenser Deity  
They from the MERCY-SEAT like rosy flames,  
From God's celestial MERCY-SEAT will flash,  
And at the wells of renovating LOVE  
Fill their Seven Vials with salutary wrath. 1796.

81-3      For even these on wings of healing come,  
Yea, kindling with intenser Deity  
From the Celestial MERCY SEAT they speed,  
And at the renovating &c. 1803.

86 soft] sweet 1803.

Drink up the spirit, and the dim regards  
Self-centre. Lo they vanish ! or acquire 90  
New names, new features—by supernal grace  
Enrobed with Light, and naturalised in Heaven.  
As when a shepherd on a vernal morn  
Through some thick fog creeps timorous with slow foot, 95  
Darkling he fixes on the immediate road  
His downward eye: all else of fairest kind  
Hid or deformed. But lo ! the bursting Sun !  
Touched by the enchantment of that sudden beam  
Straight the black vapour melteth, and in globes 100  
Of dewy glitter gems each plant and tree ;  
On every leaf, on every blade it hangs !  
Dance glad the new-born intermingling rays,  
And wide around the landscape streams with glory !

There is one Mind, one omnipresent Mind, 105  
Omnific. His most holy name is Love.  
Truth of subliming import ! with the which  
Who feeds and saturates his constant soul,  
He from his small particular orbit flies  
With blest outstarting ! From himself he flies, 110  
Stands in the sun, and with no partial gaze  
Views all creation ; and he loves it all,  
And blesses it, and calls it very good !  
This is indeed to dwell with the Most High !  
Cherubs and rapture-trembling Seraphim 115  
Can press no nearer to the Almighty's throne.  
But that we roam unconscious, or with hearts  
Unfeeling of our universal Sire,  
And that in His vast family no Cain  
Injures uninjured (in her best-aimed blow 120  
Victorious Murder a blind Suicide)  
Haply for this some younger Angel now  
Looks down on Human Nature : and, behold !  
A sea of blood bestrewed with wrecks, where mad  
Embattling Interests on each other rush 125  
With unhelmed rage !

'Tis the sublime of man,  
Our noontide Majesty, to know ourselves

96-7 Darkling with earnest eyes he traces out  
Th' immediate road, all else of fairest kind 1803.

98 the burning Sun 1803 115 The Cherubs and the trembling  
Seraphim 1803. 119-21 om. 1803.

Parts and proportions of one wondrous whole !  
 This fraternises man, this constitutes  
 Our charities and bearings. But 'tis God      130  
 Diffused through all, that doth make all one whole ;  
 This the worst superstition, him except  
 Aught to desire, Supreme Reality !<sup>1</sup>  
 The plenitude and permanence of bliss !  
 O Fiends of Superstition ! not that oft      135  
 The erring Priest hath stained with brother's blood  
 Your grisly idols, not for this may wrath  
 Thunder against you from the Holy One !  
 But o'er some plain that steameth to the sun,  
 Peopled with Death ; or where more hideous Trade      140  
 Loud-laughing packs his bales of human anguish ;  
 I will raise up a mourning, O ye Fiends !  
 And curse your spells, that film the eye of Faith,  
 Hiding the present God ; whose presence lost,  
 The moral world's cohesion, we become      145  
 An Anarchy of Spirits ! Toy-bewitched,  
 Made blind by lusts, disherited of soul,  
 No common centre Man, no common sire  
 Knoweth ! A sordid solitary thing,  
 Mid countless brethren with a lonely heart      150  
 Through courts and cities the smooth savage roams  
 Feeling himself, his own low self the whole ;

<sup>1</sup> If to make aught but the Supreme Reality the object of final pursuit, be Superstition ; if the attributing of sublime properties to things or persons, which those things or persons neither do or can possess, be Superstition ; then Avarice and Ambition are Superstitions : and he who wishes to estimate the evils of Superstition, should transport himself, not to the temple of the Mexican Deities, but to the plains of Flanders, or the coast of Africa.—Such is the sentiment convey'd in this and the subsequent lines. *Footnote to line 135, 1797 : to line 143, 1803.*

135-41 O Fiends of SUPERSTITION ! not that oft  
 Your pitiless rites have floated with man's blood  
 The skull-pil'd Temple, not for this shall wrath  
 Thunder against you from the Holy One !  
 But (whether ye th' unclimbing Bigot mock  
 With secondary Gods, or if more pleas'd  
 Ye petrify th' imbrothell'd Atheist's heart,  
 The Atheist your worst slave) I o'er some plain  
 Peopled with Death, and to the silent Sun  
 Steaming with tyrant-murder'd multitudes ;  
 Or where mid groans and shrieks loud-laughing TRADE  
 More hideous packs his bales of living anguish 1796.

When he by sacred sympathy might make  
 The whole one Self! Self, that no alien knows!  
 Self, far diffused as Fancy's wing can travel!  
 Self, spreading still! Oblivious of its own,  
 Yet all of all possessing! This is Faith!  
 This the Messiah's destined victory!

But first offences needs must come! Even now<sup>1</sup>  
 (Black Hell laughs horrible—to hear the scoff!)  
 Thee to defend, meek Galilean! Thee  
 And thy mild laws of Love unutterable,  
 Mistrust and Enmity have burst the bands  
 Of social peace: and listening Treachery lurks  
 With pious fraud to snare a brother's life;  
 And childless widows o'er the groaning land  
 Wail numberless; and orphans weep for bread!  
 Thee to defend, dear Saviour of Mankind!  
 Thee, Lamb of God! Thee, blameless Prince of Peace!  
 From all sides rush the thirsty brood of War!—  
 Austria, and that foul Woman of the North,  
 The lustful murderer of her wedded lord!  
 And he, connatural Mind!<sup>2</sup> whom (in their songs  
 So bards of elder time had haply feigned)  
 Some Fury fondled in her hate to man,  
 Bidding her serpent hair in mazy surge  
 Lick his young face, and at his mouth imbreathe

<sup>1</sup> January 21st, 1794, in the debate on the Address to his Majesty, on the speech from the Throne, the Earl of Guildford (*sic*) moved an Amendment to the following effect:—‘That the House hoped his Majesty would seize the earliest opportunity to conclude a peace with France,’ &c. This motion was opposed by the Duke of Portland, who ‘considered the war to be merely grounded on one principle—the preservation of the CHRISTIAN RELIGION’. May 30th, 1794, the Duke of Bedford moved a number of Resolutions, with a view to the Establishment of a Peace with France. He was opposed (among others) by Lord Abingdon in these remarkable words: ‘The best road to Peace, my Lords, is WAR! and WAR carried on in the same manner in which we are taught to worship our CREATOR, namely, with all our souls, and with all our minds, and with all our hearts, and with all our strength.’ [Footnote to line 159, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829, and 1834.]

<sup>2</sup> That Despot who received the wages of an hireling that he might act the part of a swindler, and who skulked from his impotent attacks on the liberties of France to perpetrate more successful iniquity in the plains of Poland. Note to line 193. Notes, 1796, p. 170.

165 pious] *pious* 1796–1829.

176 mazy surge] *tortuous folds* 1796.

177 imbreathe] *inbreath* 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.

Horrible sympathy ! And leagued with these  
Each petty German princeling, nursed in gore !  
Soul-hardened barterers of human blood !<sup>1</sup>      180  
Death's prime slave-merchants ! Scorpion-whips of Fate !  
Nor least in savagery of holy zeal,  
Apt for the yoke, the race degenerate,  
Whom Britain erst had blushed to call her sons !  
Thee to defend the Moloch Priest prefers      185  
The prayer of hate, and bellows to the herd,  
That Deity, Accomplice Deity  
In the fierce jealousy of wakened wrath  
Will go forth with our armies and our fleets  
To scatter the red ruin on their foes !      190  
O blasphemy ! to mingle fiendish deeds  
With blessedness !

Lord of unsleeping Love,<sup>2</sup>

From everlasting Thou ! We shall not die.  
These, even these, in mercy didst thou form,  
Teachers of Good through Evil, by brief wrong  
Making Truth lovely, and her future might  
Magnetic o'er the fixed untrembling heart.

In the primeval age a dateless while  
The vacant Shepherd wander'd with his flock,  
Pitching his tent where'er the green grass waved.  
But soon Imagination conjured up  
An host of new desires : with busy aim,  
Each for himself, Earth's eager children toiled.  
So Property began, twy-streaming fount,

<sup>1</sup> The Father of the present Prince of Hesse Cassell supported himself and his strumpets at Paris by the vast sums which he received from the British Government during the American War for the flesh of his subjects. *Notes*, 1796, p. 176.

<sup>2</sup> Art thou not from everlasting, O Lord, mine Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord! thou hast ordained them for judgment, &c. Habakkuk i. 12. Note to line 212. Notes, 1796, p. 171. Footnote, 1828, 1829, 1834.

Art thou not, &c. In this paragraph the Author recalls himself from his indignation against the instruments of Evil, to contemplate the uses of these Evils in the great process of divine Benevolence. In the first age, Men were innocent from ignorance of Vice; they fell, that by the knowledge of consequences they might attain intellectual security, i.e. Virtue, which is a wise and strong-nerv'd Innocence. *Footnote to line 196, 1797: to line 204, 1803.*

Whence Vice and Virtue flow, honey and gall. 205  
 Hence the soft couch, and many-coloured robe,  
 The timbrel, and arched dome and costly feast,  
 With all the inventive arts, that nursed the soul  
 To forms of beauty, and by sensual wants  
 Unsensualised the mind, which in the means 210  
 Learnt to forget the grossness of the end,  
 Best pleasured with its own activity.  
 And hence Disease that withers manhood's arm,  
 The daggered Envy, spirit-quenching Want,  
 Warriors, and Lords, and Priests—all the sore ills<sup>1</sup> 215  
 That vex and desolate our mortal life.  
 Wide-wasting ills! yet each the immediate source  
 Of mightier good. Their keen necessities  
 To ceaseless action goading human thought  
 Have made Earth's reasoning animal her Lord; 220  
 And the pale-featured Sage's trembling hand  
 Strong as an host of arméd Deities,  
 Such as the blind Ionian fabled erst.

From Avarice thus, from Luxury and War  
 Sprang heavenly Science; and from Science Freedom. 225  
 O'er waken'd realms Philosophers and Bards  
 Spread in concentric circles: they whose souls,  
 Conscious of their high dignities from God,  
 Brook not Wealth's rivalry! and they, who long  
 Enamoured with the charms of order, hate 230  
 The unseemly disproportion: and whoe'er

<sup>1</sup> I deem that the teaching of the gospel for hire is wrong; because it gives the teacher an improper bias in favour of particular opinions on a subject where it is of the last importance that the mind should be perfectly unbiassed. Such is my private opinion; but I mean not to censure all hired teachers, many among whom I know, and venerate as the best and wisest of men—God forbid that I should think of these, when I use the word PRIEST, a name, after which any other term of abhorrence would appear an anti-climax. By a Priest I mean a man who holding the scourge of power in his right hand and a bible (translated by authority) in his left, doth necessarily cause the bible and the scourge to be associated ideas, and so produces that temper of mind which leads to Infidelity—Infidelity which judging of Revelation by the doctrines and practices of established Churches honors God by rejecting Christ. See ‘Address to the People’, p. 57, sold by Parsons, Paternoster Row. Note to line 235. Notes, 1796, pp. 171, 172.

Turn with mild sorrow from the Victor's car  
 And the low puppetry of thrones, to muse  
 On that blest triumph, when the Patriot Sage<sup>1</sup>  
 Called the red lightnings from the o'er-rushing cloud      235  
 And dashed the beauteous terrors on the earth  
 Smiling majestic. Such a phalanx ne'er  
 Measured firm paces to the calming sound  
 Of Spartan flute! These on the fated day,  
 When, stung to rage by Pity, eloquent men      240  
 Have roused with pealing voice the unnumbered tribes  
 That toil and groan and bleed, hungry and blind—  
 These, hush'd awhile with patient eye serene,  
 Shall watch the mad careering of the storm;  
 Then o'er the wild and wavy chaos rush      245  
 And tame the outrageous mass, with plastic might  
 Moulding Confusion to such perfect forms,  
 As erst were wont,—bright visions of the day!—  
 To float before them, when, the summer noon,  
 Beneath some arched romantic rock reclined      250  
 They felt the sea-breeze lift their youthful locks;  
 Or in the month of blossoms, at mild eve,  
 Wandering with desultory feet inhaled  
 The wafted perfumes, and the flocks and woods  
 And many-tinted streams and setting sun      255  
 With all his gorgeous company of clouds  
 Ecstatic gazed! then homeward as they strayed  
 Cast the sad eye to earth, and inly mused  
 Why there was misery in a world so fair.

Ah! far removed from all that glads the sense,  
 From all that softens or ennobles Man,  
 The wretched Many! Bent beneath their loads  
 They gape at pageant Power, nor recognise  
 Their cots' transmuted plunder! From the tree      260  
 Of Knowledge, ere the vernal sap had risen  
 Rudely disbranchéd! Blessed Society!  
 Fitliest depicted by some sun-scorched waste,  
 Where oft majestic through the tainted noon      265

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Franklin. *Note* to line 253. *Notes*, 1796, p. 172.

254-5 The wafted perfumes, gazing on the woods  
 The many tinted streams 1803.

257 In extacy! 1803. 266 Blessed] O Blest 1796, *Watchman*: evil 1803:  
*Blessed* 1797, 1828, 1829.

The Simoom sails, before whose purple pomp<sup>1</sup>  
 Who falls not prostrate dies! And where by night,      270  
 Fast by each precious fountain on green herbs  
 The lion couches: or hyaena dips  
 Deep in the lucid stream his bloody jaws;  
 Or serpent plants his vast moon-glittering bulk,  
 Caught in whose monstrous twine Behemoth<sup>2</sup> yells,      275  
 His bones loud-crashing!

O ye numberless,  
 Whom foul Oppression's ruffian gluttony  
 Drives from Life's plenteous feast! O thou poor Wretch  
 Who nursed in darkness and made wild by want,  
 Roamest for prey, yea thy unnatural hand      280  
 Dost lift to deeds of blood! O pale-eyed form,  
 The victim of seduction, doomed to know  
 Polluted nights and days of blasphemy;  
 Who in loathed orgies with lewd wassailers  
 Must gaily laugh, while thy remembered Home      285  
 Gnaws like a viper at thy secret heart!  
 O agéd Women! ye who weekly catch  
 The morsel tossed by law-forced charity,

<sup>1</sup> At eleven o'clock, while we contemplated with great pleasure the rugged top of Chiggre, to which we were fast approaching, and where we were to solace ourselves with plenty of good water, IDRIS cried out with a loud voice, 'Fall upon your faces, for here is the Simoom'. I saw from the S.E. an haze come on, in colour like the purple part of the rainbow, but not so compressed or thick. It did not occupy twenty yards in breadth, and was about twelve feet high from the ground.—We all lay flat on the ground, as if dead, till IDRIS told us it was blown over. The meteor, or purple haze, which I saw, was indeed passed; but the light air that still blew was of heat to threaten suffocation. Bruce's *Travels*, vol. 4, p. 557. *Note* to line 288. *Notes*, 1796, pp. 172, 173.

<sup>2</sup> Behemoth, in Hebrew, signifies wild beasts in general. Some believe it is the Elephant, some the Hippopotamus; some affirm it is the Wild Bull. Poetically, it designates any large Quadruped. [Footnote to l. 279, 1797: to l. 286, 1803. Reprinted in 1828, 1829, and 1834. The note to l. 294 in 1796, p. 173 ran thus: Used poetically for a very large quadruped, but in general it designates the elephant.]

270 by] at *Watchman*. 273 bloody] gore-stained 1803. 274 plants]  
 rolls 1796.

277-8 Ye whom Oppression's ruffian gluttony  
 Drives from the feast of life 1803.

280-1 Dost roam for prey—yea thy unnatural hand  
 Liftest to deeds of blood 1796.

281 Dost] Dar'st *Watchman*.

283-4 Nights of pollution, days of blasphemy,  
 Who in thy orgies with loath'd wassailers 1803.

And die so slowly, that none call it murder!

O loathly suppliants! ye, that unreceived

290

Totter heart-broken from the closing gates

Of the full Lazar-house; or, gazing, stand,

Sick with despair! O ye to Glory's field

Forced or ensnared, who, as ye gasp in death,

Bleed with new wounds beneath the vulture's beak!

295

O thou poor widow, who in dreams dost view

Thy husband's mangled corse, and from short doze

Start'st with a shriek; or in thy half-thatched cot

Waked by the wintry night-storm, wet and cold

Cow'rst o'er thy screaming baby! Rest awhile

300

Children of Wretchedness! More groans must rise,

More blood must stream, or ere your wrongs be full.

Yet is the day of Retribution nigh:

The Lamb of God hath opened the fifth seal:<sup>1</sup>

And upward rush on swiftest wing of fire

305

The innumerable multitude of wrongs

By man on man inflicted! Rest awhile,

Children of Wretchedness! The hour is nigh

<sup>1</sup> See the sixth chapter of the Revelation of St. John the Divine.—And I looked and beheld a pale horse; and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the FOURTH part of the Earth to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with pestilence, and with the beasts of the Earth.—And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held; and white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also, and their brethren that should be killed as they were should be fulfilled. And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, the stars of Heaven fell unto the Earth, even as a fig-tree casteth her untimely figs when she is shaken of a mighty wind: And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, &c. Note to line 324. Notes, 1796, pp. 174, 175.

290 O loathly-visag'd Suppliants! ye that oft 1796: O loathly-visag'd suppliants! that oft *Watchman*.

291-2 Rack'd with disease, from the unopen'd gate

Of the full Lazar-house, heart-broken crawl! 1796, *Watchman*.

293-6 O ye to scepter'd Glory's gore-drench'd field

Forc'd or ensnar'd, who swept by Slaughter's scythe

Stern nurse of Vultures! steam in putrid heaps 1796.

O ye that steaming to the silent Noon,

People with Death red-eyed Ambition's plains!

O Wretched Widow *Watchman*.

300 Cow'rest 1796. 302 stream] steam 1796, *Watchman*, 1797, 1803.

305 And upward spring on swiftest plume of fire *Watchman*.

And lo ! the Great, the Rich, the Mighty Men,  
The Kings and the Chief Captains of the World,  
With all that fixed on high like stars of Heaven  
Shot baleful influence, shall be cast to earth,  
Vile and down-trodden, as the untimely fruit  
Shook from the fig-tree by a sudden storm.

310

Even now the storm begins :<sup>1</sup> each gentle name,  
Faith and meek Piety, with fearful joy  
Tremble far-off—for lo ! the Giant Frenzy  
Uprooting empires with his whirlwind arm  
Mocketh high Heaven ; burst hideous from the cell  
Where the old Hag, unconquerable, huge,  
Creation's eyeless drudge, black Ruin, sits  
Nursing the impatient earthquake.

315

320

O return !

Pure Faith ! meek Piety ! The abhorred Form<sup>2</sup>  
Whose scarlet robe was stiff with earthly pomp,  
Who drank iniquity in cups of gold,  
Whose names were many and all blasphemous,  
Hath met the horrible judgment ! Whence that cry ?  
The mighty army of foul Spirits shrieked  
Dishonored of earth ! For she hath fallen  
On whose black front was written Mystery ;  
She that reeled heavily, whose wine was blood ;  
She that worked whoredom with the Daemon Power,  
And from the dark embrace all evil things  
Brought forth and nurtured : mitred Atheism !  
And patient Folly who on bended knee  
Gives back the steel that stabbed him ; and pale Fear  
Haunted by ghastlier shapings than surround  
Moon-blasted Madness when he yells at midnight !  
Return pure Faith ! return meek Piety !

325

330

335

<sup>1</sup> Alluding to the French Revolution 1834 : The French Revolution 1796 : This passage alludes to the French Revolution : and the subsequent paragraph to the downfall of Religious Establishments. I am convinced that the Babylon of the Apocalypse does not apply to Rome exclusively ; but to the union of Religion with Power and Wealth, wherever it is found. *Footnote to line 320, 1797, to line 322, 1803.*

<sup>2</sup> And there came one of the seven Angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, come hither ! I will show unto thee the judgment of the great Whore, that sitteth upon many waters : with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, &c. *Revelation of St. John the Divine, chapter the seventeenth. Note to l. 343. Notes, 1796, p. 175.*

The kingdoms of the world are your's: each heart  
 Self-governed, the vast family of Love  
 Raised from the common earth by common toil  
 Enjoy the equal produce. Such delights  
 As float to earth, permitted visitants !

340

When in some hour of solemn jubilee  
 The massy gates of Paradise are thrown  
 Wide open, and forth come in fragments wild  
 Sweet echoes of unearthly melodies,  
 And odours snatched from beds of Amaranth,  
 And they, that from the crystal river of life  
 Spring up on freshened wing, ambrosial gales !  
 The favoured good man in his lonely walk  
 Perceives them, and his silent spirit drinks  
 Strange bliss which he shall recognise in heaven.

345

And such delights, such strange beatitudes  
 Seize on my young anticipating heart  
 When that blest future rushes on my view !  
 For in his own and in his Father's might  
 The Saviour comes ! While as the Thousand Years<sup>1</sup>  
 Lead up their mystic dance, the Desert shouts !  
 Old Ocean claps his hands ! The mighty Dead  
 Rise to new life, whoe'er from earliest time  
 With conscious zeal had urged Love's wondrous plan,  
 Coadjutors of God. To Milton's trump

350

355

<sup>1</sup> The Millenium :—in which I suppose, that Man will continue to enjoy the highest glory, of which his human nature is capable.—That all who in past ages have endeavoured to ameliorate the state of man will rise and enjoy the fruits and flowers, the imperceptible seeds of which they had sown in their former Life: and that the wicked will during the same period, be suffering the remedies adapted to their several bad habits. I suppose that this period will be followed by the passing away of this Earth and by our entering the state of pure intellect; when all Creation shall rest from its labours. *Footnote to line 365, 1797, to line 367, 1803.*

345–8 When on some solemn Jubilee of Saints  
 The sapphire-blazing gates of Paradise  
 Are thrown wide open, and thence voyage forth  
 Detachments wild of seraph-warbled airs 1796, *Watchman.*

355 beatitudes] beatitude 1796, *Watchman*, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.

356 Seize on] Have seiz'd *Watchman.*

359–61 The SAVIOUR comes ! While as to solemn strains,  
 The THOUSAND YEARS lead up their mystic dance  
 Old OCEAN claps his hands ! the DESERT shouts !  
 And soft gales wafted from the haunts of spring  
 Melt the primaeval North ! *The Mighty Dead* 1796.

The high groves of the renovated Earth  
Unbosom their glad echoes: inly hushed,  
Adoring Newton his serener eye  
Raises to heaven: and he of mortal kind  
Wisest, he<sup>1</sup> first who marked the ideal tribes  
Up the fine fibres through the sentient brain.  
Lo! Priestley there, patriot, and saint, and sage,  
Him, full of years, from his loved native land  
Statesmen blood-stained and priests idolatrous  
By dark lies maddening the blind multitude  
Drove with vain hate. Calm, pitying he retired,  
And mused expectant on these promised years.

O Years ! the blest pre-eminence of Saints !  
Ye sweep athwart my gaze, so heavenly bright,  
The wings that veil the adoring Seraphs' eyes,  
What time they bend before the Jasper Throne <sup>2</sup> 380  
Reflect no lovelier hues ! Yet ye depart,  
And all beyond is darkness ! Heights most strange,  
Whence Fancy falls, fluttering her idle wing.  
For who of woman born may paint the hour,  
When seized in his mid course, the Sun shall wane 385

<sup>1</sup> David Hartley. [Footnote to line 392, 1796, to line 375, 1797, to line 380, 1803 : reprinted in 1828, 1829, and 1834.]

<sup>2</sup> Rev. chap. iv. v. 2 and 3.—And immediately I was in the Spirit: and behold, a Throne was set in Heaven and one sat on the Throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone, &c. [Footnote to line 386, 1797, to line 389, 1803: reprinted in 1828, 1829, and 1834.]

365 The odorous groves of Earth reparadis'd 1796.  
 370-2 Down the fine fibres from the sentient brain  
     Roll subtly-surging. Pressing on his steps  
     Lo! PRIESTLEY there, Patriot, and Saint, and Sage,  
     Whom that my fleshly eye hath never seen  
     A childish pang of impotent regret  
     Hath thrill'd my heart. Him from his *native land* 1796.  
     Up the fine fibres thro' the sentient brain  
     Pass in fine surges. Pressing on his steps  
     Lo! Priestley there 1803.

378-80 Sweeping before the rapt prophetic Gaze  
     Bright as what glories of the jasper throne  
     Stream from the gorgeous and face-veiling plumes  
     Of Spirits adoring ! Ye blest years ! must end 1796.

380 they bend] he bends 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.

Making noon ghastly ! Who of woman born  
 May image in the workings of his thought,  
 How the black-visaged, red-eyed Fiend outstretched<sup>1</sup>  
 Beneath the unsteady feet of Nature groans,  
 In feverous slumbers—destined then to wake,  
 When fiery whirlwinds thunder his dread name  
 And Angels shout, Destruction ! How his arm  
 The last great Spirit lifting high in air  
 Shall swear by Him, the ever-living One,  
 Time is no more !

390

Believe thou, O my soul,<sup>2</sup>  
 Life is a vision shadowy of Truth ;  
 And vice, and anguish, and the wormy grave,  
 Shapes of a dream ! The veiling clouds retire,  
 And lo ! the Throne of the redeeming God  
 Forth flashing unimaginable day  
 Wraps in one blaze earth, heaven, and deepest hell.

395

Contemplant Spirits ! ye that hover o'er  
 With untired gaze the immeasurable fount  
 Ebullient with creative Deity !  
 And ye of plastic power, that interfused  
 Roll through the grosser and material mass  
 In organizing surge ! Holies of God !  
 (And what if Monads of the infinite mind ?)  
 I haply journeying my immortal course  
 Shall sometime join your mystic choir ! Till then  
 I discipline my young and novice thought  
 In ministeries of heart-stirring song,  
 And aye on Meditation's heaven-ward wing  
 Soaring aloft I breathe the empyreal air  
 Of Love, omnific, omnipresent Love,

405

410

415

<sup>1</sup> The final Destruction impersonated. [Footnote to line 394, 1797, to line 396, 1803 : reprinted in 1828, 1829, and 1834.]

<sup>2</sup> This paragraph is intelligible to those, who, like the Author, believe and feel the sublime system of Berkley (*sic*) ; and the doctrine of the final Happiness of all men. Footnote to line 402, 1797, to line 405, 1803.

387 May image in his wildly-working thought 1796 : May image, how the red-eyed Fiend outstretcht 1803. 390 feverous] feverish 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829. Between 391, 392 DESTRUCTION ! when the Sons of Morning shout, The Angels shout, DESTRUCTION 1803. 393 The Mighty Spirit 1796. 400 om. 1803. 401 blaze] Light 1803. 411 and novice] noviciate 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.

Whose day-spring rises glorious in my soul  
 As the great Sun, when he his influence  
 Sheds on the frost-bound waters—The glad stream  
 Flows to the ray and warbles as it flows.

1794-1796.

### MONODY ON THE DEATH OF CHATTERTON<sup>1</sup>

O WHAT a wonder seems the fear of death,  
 Seeing how gladly we all sink to sleep,  
 Babes, Children, Youths, and Men,  
 Night following night for threescore years and ten !  
 But doubly strange, where life is but a breath       5  
 To sigh and pant with, up Want's rugged steep.

Away, Grim Phantom ! Scorpion King, away !  
 Reserve thy terrors and thy stings display  
 For coward Wealth and Guilt in robes of State !  
 Lo ! by the grave I stand of one, for whom       10  
 A prodigal Nature and a niggard Doom  
 (*That all bestowing, this withholding all*)  
 Made each chance knell from distant spire or dome  
 Sound like a seeking Mother's anxious call,  
 Return, poor Child ! Home, weary Truant, home !       15

<sup>1</sup> The ‘Monody’, &c., dated in eds. 1796, 1797, 1803, ‘October, 1794,’ was first published at Cambridge in 1794, in *Poems*, By Thomas Rowley [i.e. Chatterton] and others edited by Lancelot Sharpe (pp. xxv-xxviii). An *Introductory Note* was prefixed:—‘The Editor thinks himself happy in the permission of an ingenious friend to insert the following Monody.’ The variants marked 1794 are derived from that work. The ‘Monody’ was not included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817. For MS. variants *vide ante*, ‘Monody’, &c., Christ’s Hospital Version.

Coleridge told Cottle, May 27, 1814 that lines 1-4 were written when he was ‘a mere boy’ (*Reminiscences*, 1847, p. 348); and, again, April 22, 1819, he told William Worship that they were written ‘in his thirteenth

---

1-15 When faint and sad o'er Sorrow's desert wild  
 Slow journeys onward, poor Misfortune's child ;  
 When fades each lovely form by Fancy drest,  
 And inly pines the self-consuming breast ;  
 (No scourge of scorpions in thy right arm dread,  
 No helméd terrors nodding o'er thy head,)  
 Assume, O DEATH ! the cherub wings of PEACE,  
 And bid the heartsick Wanderer's Anguish cease.

1794, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828.

[Lines 1-15 of the text were first printed in 1829.]

Thee, Chatterton ! these unblest stones protect  
From want, and the bleak freezings of neglect.  
Too long before the vexing Storm-blast driven  
Here hast thou found repose ! beneath this sod !  
Thou ! O vain word ! *thou* dwell'st not with the clod ! 20  
Amid the shining Host of the Forgiven  
Thou at the throne of mercy and thy God  
The triumph of redeeming Love dost hymn  
(Believe it, O my Soul !) to harps of Seraphim.

Yet oft, perforce ('tis suffering Nature's call),  
I weep that heaven-born Genius *so* should fall ; 25  
And oft, in Fancy's saddest hour, my soul  
Averted shudders at the poison'd bowl.  
Now groans my sickening heart, as still I view  
    Thy corse of livid hue ; 30  
Now Indignation checks the feeble sigh,  
Or flashes through the tear that glistens in mine eye !  
  
Is this the land of song-ennobled line ?  
Is this the land, where Genius ne'er in vain  
    Pour'd forth his lofty strain ? 35  
Ah me ! yet Spenser, gentlest bard divine,  
Beneath chill Disappointment's shade,  
His weary limbs in lonely anguish lay'd.  
    And o'er her darling dead  
    Pity hopeless hung her head, 40  
While 'mid the pelting of that merciless storm,  
Sunk to the cold earth Otway's famish'd form !

'year as a school exercise'. The Monody numbered 107 lines in 1794, 143 in 1796, 135 in 1797, 119 in 1803, 143 in 1828, 154 in 1829, and 165 lines in 1834.

16 these] yon 1794, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828.

18-24 Escap'd the sore wounds of Affliction's rod

Meek at the throne of Mercy and of God,

Perchance, thou raisest high th' enraptur'd hymn-

    Amid the blaze of Seraphim ! 1794, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828.

25 Yet oft ('tis Nature's bosom-startling call) 1794, 1796, 1828 : Yet oft  
('tis Nature's call) 1797, 1803. 26 should] shall 1829. 30 Thy] The  
1794.

31-32 And now a flash of Indignation high

Darts through the tear that glistens in mine eye.

1794, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828.

35 his] her 1794. 37 Disappointment's deadly shade 1794. 41  
merciless] pitiless 1794.

Sublime of thought, and confident of fame,  
From vales where Avon<sup>1</sup> winds the Minstrel came.

45

Light-hearted youth ! aye, as he hastes along,  
He meditates the future song,  
How dauntless Ælla fray'd the Dacyan foe ;  
And while the numbers flowing strong  
In eddies whirl, in surges throng,  
Exulting in the spirits' genial throe  
In tides of power his life-blood seems to flow.

And now his cheeks with deeper ardors flame,  
His eyes have glorious meanings, that declare  
More than the light of outward day shines there,  
A holier triumph and a sterner aim !

55

Wings grow within him ; and he soars above  
Or Bard's or Minstrel's lay of war or love.  
Friend to the friendless, to the sufferer health,  
He hears the widow's prayer, the good man's praise ;  
To scenes of bliss transmutes his fancied wealth,  
And young and old shall now see happy days.  
On many a waste he bids trim gardens rise,  
Gives the blue sky to many a prisoner's eyes ;  
And now in wrath he grasps the patriot steel,  
And her own iron rod he makes Oppression feel.

65

Sweet Flower of Hope ! free Nature's genial child !  
That didst so fair disclose thy early bloom,

<sup>1</sup> Avon, a river near Bristol, the birth-place of Chatterton.

45 aye, as] om. 1797, 1803. 46 He] And 1797, 1803.

47-56 How dauntless Ælla fray'd the Dacyan foes ;

And, as floating high in air,

Glitter the sunny Visions fair,

His eyes dance rapture, and his bosom glows !

1794, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828.

[1794 reads 'Danish foes'; 1797, 1803 read 'See, as floating', &c.  
Lines 48-56 were added in 1829.]

58-71 Friend to the friendless, to the sick man Health,  
With generous Joy he views th' *ideal* wealth ;  
He hears the Widow's heaven-breath'd prayer of Praise ;  
He marks the shelter'd Orphan's tearful gaze ;  
Or where the sorrow-shrivell'd Captive lay,

5

Pours the bright Blaze of Freedom's noon-tide Ray :  
And now, indignant 'grasps the patriot steel'  
And her own iron rod he makes Oppression feel.

Filling the wide air with a rich perfume !  
 For thee in vain all heavenly aspects smil'd ;  
 From the hard world brief respite could they win— 70  
 The frost nipp'd sharp without, the canker prey'd within !  
 Ah ! where are fled the charms of vernal Grace,  
 And Joy's wild gleams that lighten'd o'er thy face ?  
 Youth of tumultuous soul, and haggard eye !  
 Thy wasted form, thy hurried steps I view, 75  
 On thy wan forehead starts the lethal dew,  
 And oh ! the anguish of that shuddering sigh !

Such were the struggles of the gloomy hour,  
 When Care, of wither'd brow,  
 Prepar'd the poison's death-cold power : 80  
 Already to thy lips was rais'd the bowl,  
 When near thee stood Affection meek  
 (Her bosom bare, and wildly pale her cheek)  
 Thy sullen gaze she bade thee roll  
 On scenes that well might melt thy soul ; 85  
 Thy native cot she flash'd upon thy view,

Clad in Nature's rich array,  
 And bright in all her tender hues,  
 Sweet Tree of Hope ! thou loveliest child of Spring ! 10  
 How fair didst thou disclose thine early bloom,  
 Loading the west winds with its soft perfume !  
 And Fancy, elfin form of gorgeous wing,  
 [And Fancy hovering round on shadowy wing, 1794.]  
 On every blossom hung her fostering dews, 15  
 That, changeful, wanton'd to the orient Day !  
 But soon upon thy poor unshelter'd Head  
 [Ah ! soon, &c. 1794.]  
 Did Penury her sickly mildew shed :  
 And soon the scathing Lightning bade thee stand  
 In frowning horror o'er the blighted Land 1794, 1796, 1828.

[Lines 1-8 of the preceding variant were omitted in 1797. Line 9 reads 'Yes ! Clad,' &c., and line 12 reads 'Most fair,' &c. The entire variant, 'Friend . . . Land,' was omitted in 1803, but reappears in 1828. The quotation marks 'grasps the patriot steel' which appear in 1796, but not in 1794, were inserted in 1828, but omitted in 1829, 1834. Lines 1-6 were included in 'Lines written at the King's Arms, Ross', as first published in the *Cambridge Intelligencer*, Sept. 27, 1794, and in the editions of 1797, 1828, 1829, and 1834.]

72 Ah ! where] Whither 1794, 1797. 73 that lighten'd] light-flashing 1797, 1803. 76 wan] cold 1794, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828. lethal] anguish'd 1794, 1796, 1797, 1828. 77 And dreadful was that bosom-rending sigh 1794, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828. 78 the gloomy] that gloomy 1803. 80 Prepar'd the poison's power 1797, 1803.

Thy native cot, where still, at close of day,  
Peace smiling sate, and listen'd to thy lay ;  
Thy Sister's shrieks she bade thee hear,  
And mark thy Mother's thrilling tear ; 90  
See, see her breast's convulsive thro'e,  
Her silent agony of woe !

Ah ! dash the poison'd chalice from thy hand !

And thou hadst dashed it, at her soft command,  
But that Despair and Indignation rose, 95  
And told again the story of thy woes ;  
Told the keen insult of the unfeeling heart,  
The dread dependence on the low-born mind ;  
Told every pang, with which thy soul must smart,  
Neglect, and grinning Scorn, and Want combined ! 100  
Recoiling quick, thou badest the friend of pain  
Roll the black tide of Death through every freezing vein !  
O spirit blest !

Whether the Eternal's throne around,  
Amidst the blaze of Seraphim, 105  
Thou pourest forth the grateful hymn,  
Or soaring thro' the blest domain  
Enrapturest Angels with thy strain,—  
Grant me, like thee, the lyre to sound,  
Like thee with fire divine to glow ;—  
But ah ! when rage the waves of woe,  
Grant me with firmer breast to meet their hate,  
And soar beyond the storm with upright eye elate !

Ye woods ! that wave o'er Avon's rocky steep,  
To Fancy's ear sweet is your murmuring deep ! 115  
For here she loves the cypress wreath to weave ;  
Watching with wistful eye, the saddening tints of eve.  
Here, far from men, amid this pathless grove,  
In solemn thought the Minstrel wont to rove,  
Like star-beam on the slow sequester'd tide 120  
Lone-glittering, through the high tree branching wide.

90 And mark thy mother's tear 1797, 1803. 98 low-born] low-bred 1794. 99 with] at 1794. 100 must] might 1794. 102 black] dark 1794. 103-13 These lines, which form the conclusion (ll. 80-90) of the Christ's Hospital Version, were printed for the first time in 1834, with the following variants : 1. 104 the Eternal's th' Eternal ; 1. 105 Seraphim] Cherubim ; 1. 112 to meet] t'oppose ; 1. 113 storm] storms. 120 slow] rude 1794. 121 Lone-glittering thro' the Forest's murksome pride 1794.

And here, in Inspiration's eager hour,  
 When most the big soul feels the mastering power,  
 These wilds, these caverns roaming o'er,  
 Round which the screaming sea-gulls soar,      125  
 With wild unequal steps he pass'd along,  
 Oft pouring on the winds a broken song:  
 Anon, upon some rough rock's fearful brow  
 Would pause abrupt—and gaze upon the waves below.

Poor Chatterton ! *he* sorrows for thy fate      130  
 Who would have prais'd and lov'd thee, ere too late.  
 Poor Chatterton ! farewell ! of darkest hues  
 This chaplet cast I on thy unshaped tomb ;  
 But dare no longer on the sad theme muse,  
 Lest kindred woes persuade a kindred doom :      135  
 For oh ! big gall-drops, shook from Folly's wing,  
 Have blacken'd the fair promise of my spring ;  
 And the stern Fate transpierc'd with viewless dart  
 The last pale Hope that shiver'd at my heart !

Hence, gloomy thoughts ! no more my soul shall dwell      140  
 On joys that were ! no more endure to weigh  
 The shame and anguish of the evil day,  
 Wisely forgetful ! O'er the ocean swell  
 Sublime of Hope I seek the cottag'd dell  
 Where Virtue calm with careless step may stray ;      145  
 And, dancing to the moon-light roundelay,  
 The wizard Passions weave an holy spell !

O Chatterton ! that thou wert yet alive !  
 Sure thou would'st spread the canvass to the gale,  
 And love with us the tinkling team to drive      150  
 O'er peaceful Freedom's undivided dale ;  
 And we, at sober eve, would round thee throng,  
 Would hang, enraptur'd, on thy stately song,  
 And greet with smiles the young-eyed Poesy  
 All deftly mask'd as hoar Antiquity.      155

Alas, vain Phantasies ! the fleeting brood  
 Of Woe self-solac'd in her dreamy mood !

123 mastering] mad'ning 1794, 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828.

Monody ends 1794.

129 Here the

130-65 First printed in 1796.

133

unshaped] shapeless 1803.

136-39 om. 1803.

147 an] a 1834.

153 Would hang] Hanging 1796, 1797, 1803, 1828, 1829.

Yet will I love to follow the sweet dream,  
 Where Susquehannah pours his untamed stream ;  
 And on some hill, whose forest-frowning side  
 Waves o'er the murmurs of his calmer tide,      160  
 Will raise a solemn Cenotaph to thee,  
 Sweet Harper of time-shrouded Minstrelsy !  
 And there, sooth'd sadly by the dirgeful wind,  
 Muse on the sore ills I had left behind.

1790–1834.

165

THE DESTINY OF NATIONS<sup>1</sup>

## A VISION

AUSPICIOUS Reverence ! Hush all meaner song,  
 Ere we the deep preluding strain have poured  
 To the Great Father, only Rightful King,  
 Eternal Father ! King Omnipotent !  
 To the Will Absolute, the One, the Good !      5  
 The I AM, the Word, the Life, the Living God !

<sup>1</sup> First published, in its entirety, in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817 : included in 1828, 1829, and 1834. Two hundred and fifty-five lines were included in Book II of *Joan of Arc, An Epic Poem*, by Robert Southey, Bristol and London, 1796, 4<sup>o</sup>. The greater part of the remaining 212 lines were written in 1796, and formed part of an unpublished poem entitled *The Progress of Liberty* or *The Vision of the Maid of Orleans*, or *Visions of the Maid of Orleans*, or *Visions of the Maid of Arc*, or *The Vision of the Patriot Maiden*. (See letter to Poole, Dec. 13, and letter to J. Thelwall, Dec. 17, 1796, *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 192, 206. See, too, Cottle's *Early Recollections*, 1837, i. 230; and, for Lamb's criticism of a first draft of the poem, his letters to Coleridge, dated Jan. 5 and Feb. 12, 1797.) For a reprint of *Joan of Arc*, Book the Second (Preternatural Agency), see Cottle's *Early Recollections*, 1837, ii. 241–62.

The texts of 1828, 1829 (almost but not quite identical) vary slightly from that of the *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, and, again, the text of 1834 varies from that of 1828 and 1829. These variants (on a proof-sheet of the edition of 1828) are in Coleridge's own handwriting, and afford convincing evidence that he did take some part in the preparation of the text of his poems for the last edition issued in his own lifetime.

<sup>1</sup> No more of Usurpation's doom'd defeat 4<sup>o</sup>.

5–6 Beneath whose shadowy banners wide unfurl'd  
 Justice leads forth her tyrant-quelling hosts.

4<sup>o</sup>, *Sibylline Leaves*.

5 THE WILL, THE WORD, THE BREATH, THE LIVING GOD 1828, 1829.  
 6 Added in 1834.

Such symphony requires best instrument.

Seize, then, my soul ! from Freedom's trophied dome  
The Harp which hangeth high between the Shields  
Of Brutus and Leonidas ! With that

Strong music, that soliciting spell, force back  
Man's free and stirring spirit that lies entranced.

For what is Freedom, but the unfettered use  
Of all the powers which God for use had given ?

But chiefly this, him First, him Last to view  
Through meaner powers and secondary things

Effulgent, as through clouds that veil his blaze.

For all that meets the bodily sense I deem

Symbolical, one mighty alphabet

For infant minds ; and we in this low world

Placed with our backs to bright Reality,

That we may learn with young unwounded ken

The substance from its shadow. Infinite Love,

Whose latence is the plenitude of All,

Thou with retracted beams, and self-eclipse

Veiling, revealest thine eternal Sun.

But some there are who deem themselves most free  
When they within this gross and visible sphere  
Chain down the wingéd thought, scoffing ascent,  
Proud in their meanness : and themselves they cheat 30  
With noisy emptiness of learnéd phrase,  
Their subtle fluids, impacts, essences,  
Self-working tools, uncaused effects, and all  
Those blind Omniscients, those Almighty Slaves,  
Untenanting creation of its God.

9-12 The Harp which hanging high between the shields  
Of Brutus and Leonidas oft gives  
A fitful music to the breezy touch  
Of patriot spirits that demand their fame. 4<sup>o</sup>.

12 Man's] Earth's *Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, 1829.

15 But chiefly this with holiest habitude  
Of constant Faith, him First, him Last to view 4<sup>o</sup>.

23-6 Things from their shadows. Know thyself my Soul !  
Confirm'd thy strength, thy pinions fledged for flight  
Bursting this shell and leaving next thy nest  
Soon upward soaring shalt thou fix intense

Thine eaglet eye on Heaven's Eternal Sun ! 4<sup>o</sup>.

The substance from its shadow—Earth's broad shade  
Revealing by Eclipse, the Eternal Sun. *Sibylline Leaves*.

[The text of lines 23-6 is given in the Errata p. [lxii].]

But Properties are God: the naked mass  
 (If mass there be, fantastic guess or ghost)  
 Acts only by its inactivity.

Here we pause humbly. Others bolder think  
 That as one body seems the aggregate

40

Of atoms numberless, each organized;

So by a strange and dim similitude

Infinite myriads of self-conscious minds

Are one all-conscious Spirit, which informs

With absolute ubiquity of thought

45

(His one eternal self-affirming act!)

All his involvéd Monads, that yet seem

With various province and apt agency

Each to pursue its own self-centering end.

Some nurse the infant diamond in the mine;

50

Some roll the genial juices through the oak;

Some drive the mutinous clouds to clash in air,

And rushing on the storm with whirlwind speed,

Yoke the red lightnings to their volleying car.

Thus these pursue their never-varying course,

55

No eddy in their stream. Others, more wild,

With complex interests weaving human fates,

Duteous or proud, alike obedient all,

Evolve the process of eternal good.

And what if some rebellious, o'er dark realms

60

Arrogate power? yet these train up to God,

And on the rude eye, unconfirmed for day,

Flash meteor-lights better than total gloom.

As ere from Lieule-Oaive's vapoury head

The Laplander beholds the far-off Sun

65

Dart his slant beam on unobeying snows,

While yet the stern and solitary Night

Brooks no alternate sway, the Boreal Morn

With mimic lustre substitutes its gleam,

Guiding his course or by Niemi lake

70

Or Balda Zhiok,<sup>1</sup> or the mossy stone

Of Solfar-kapper,<sup>2</sup> while the snowy blast

<sup>1</sup> Balda-Zhiok, i. e mons altitudinis, the highest mountain in Lapland.

<sup>2</sup> Solfar-kapper: capitum Solfar, hic locus omnium, quotquot veterum

37 om. £<sup>o</sup>.      40 seems] is £<sup>o</sup>.      44 Form one all-conscious Spirit,  
 who directs £<sup>o</sup>.      46 om. £<sup>o</sup>.      47 involvéd] component £<sup>o</sup>.  
 54 lightnings] lightning £<sup>o</sup>.      70 Niemi] Niemi's £<sup>o</sup>.

Drifts arrowy by, or eddies round his sledge,  
Making the poor babe at its mother's back<sup>1</sup> 75  
 Scream in its scanty cradle: he the while  
Wins gentle solace as with upward eye  
He marks the streamy banners of the North,  
Thinking himself those happy spirits shall join  
Who there in floating robes of rosy light  
Dance sportively. For Fancy is the power 80  
That first unsensualises the dark mind,  
Giving it new delights; and bids it swell  
With wild activity; and peopling air,  
By obscure fears of Beings invisible,  
Emancipates it from the grosser thrall 85  
Of the present impulse, teaching Self-control,  
Till Superstition with unconscious hand  
Seat Reason on her throne. Wherefore not vain,  
Nor yet without permitted power impressed,  
I deem those legends terrible, with which 90  
The polar ancient thrills his uncouth throng:  
Whether of pitying Spirits that make their moan  
O'er slaughter'd infants, or that Giant Bird  
Vuokho, of whose rushing wings the noise  
Is Tempest, when the unutterable Shape 95  
Speeds from the mother of Death, and utters once<sup>2</sup>  
That shriek, which never murderer heard, and lived.

Lapporum supersticio sacrificiisque religiosoque cultui dedicavit, celeb-  
tissimus erat, in parte sinus australis situs, semimilliaris spatio a mari  
distans. Ipse locus, quem curiositatis gratia aliquando me invisisse  
memini, duabus praealtis lapidibus, sibi invicem oppositis, quorum alter  
musco circumdatus erat, constabat.

<sup>1</sup> The Lapland women carry their infants at their backs in a piece of excavated wood which serves them for a cradle: opposite to the infant's mouth there is a hole for it to breathe through.

Mirandum prorsus est et vix credibile nisi cui vidiisse contigit. Lappones hyeme iter facientes per vastos montes, perque horrida et invia tesqua, eo praesertim tempore quo omnia perpetuis nivibus obiecta sunt et nives ventis agitantur et in gyros aguntur, viam ad destinata loca absque errore invenire posse, lactantem autem infantem, si quem habeat, ipsa mater in dorso baiulat, in excavato ligno (Gieed'k ipsi vocant) quod pro cunis utuntur, in hoc infans pannis et pellibus convolutus colligatus iacet.—LEEMIUS DE LAPPONIBUS.

<sup>2</sup> Jaibme Aibmo.

90 deem] deemed 1829.

96-7 Speeds from the mother of Death his destin'd way  
To snatch the murderer from his secret cell. 4<sup>o</sup>.

Or if the Greenland Wizard in strange trance  
 Pierces the untravelled realms of Ocean's bed  
 Over the abysm, even to that uttermost cave  
 By mis-shaped prodigies beleaguered, such      100  
 As Earth ne'er bred, nor Air, nor the upper Sea :  
 Where dwells the Fury Form, whose unheard name  
 With eager eye, pale cheek, suspended breath,  
 And lips half-opening with the dread of sound,      105  
 Unsleeping Silence guards, worn out with fear  
 Lest haply 'scaping on some treacherous blast  
 The fatal word let slip the Elements  
 And frenzy Nature. Yet the wizard her,  
 Arm'd with Torngarsuck's power, the Spirit of Good,<sup>1</sup>      110  
 Forces to unchain the foodful progeny  
 Of the Ocean stream ;—thence thro' the realm of Souls,  
 Where live the Innocent, as far from cares  
 As from the storms and overwhelming waves  
 That tumble on the surface of the Deep,      115  
 Returns with far-heard pant, hotly pursued  
 By the fierce Warders of the Sea, once more,  
 Ere by the frost foreclosed, to repossess  
 His fleshly mansion, that had staid the while  
 In the dark tent within a cow'ring group      120  
 Untenanted.—Wild phantasies ! yet wise,  
 On the victorious goodness of high God  
 Teaching reliance, and medicinal hope,

<sup>1</sup> They call the Good Spirit, Torngarsuck. The other great but malignant spirit a nameless female ; she dwells under the sea in a great house where she can detain in captivity all the animals of the ocean by her magic power. When a dearth befalls the Greenlanders, an Angekok or magician must undertake a journey thither : he passes through the kingdom of souls, over an horrible abyss into the palace of this phantom, and by his enchantments causes the captive creatures to ascend directly to the surface of the ocean. See Crantz, *History of Greenland*, vol. i. 206.

*Between lines 99-100*

(Where live the innocent as far from cares  
 As from the storms and overwhelming waves  
 Dark tumbling on the surface of the deep).

<sup>49</sup>, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, 1829.

These lines form part of an addition (lines 111-21) which dates from 1834.  
 103 Where] There <sup>49</sup>, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, 1829.      105 om. <sup>49</sup>.      107  
 'scaping] escaping <sup>49</sup>, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, 1829.      108 fatal word] fatal  
 sound <sup>49</sup>.      112-21 thence thro' . . . Untenanted are not included in  
<sup>49</sup>, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, or 1829. For lines 113-15 vide ante, variant of  
 line 99 of the text.      112 Ocean] Ocean's 1828, 1829.

Till from Bethabrah northward, heavenly Truth  
With gradual steps, winning her difficult way,  
Transfer their rude Faith perfected and pure.

If there be Beings of higher class than Man,  
I deem no nobler province they possess,  
Than by disposal of apt circumstance  
To rear up kingdoms: and the deeds they prompt,  
Distinguishing from mortal agency,  
They choose their human ministers from such states  
As still the Epic song half fears to name,  
Repelled from all the minstrelsies that strike  
The palace-roof and soothe the monarch's pride.  
And such, perhaps, the Spirit, who (if words  
Witnessed by answering deeds may claim our faith)

130 foll. To rear some realm with patient discipline,  
Aye bidding PAIN, dark ERROR's uncouth child,  
Blameless Parenticide! his snakey scourge  
Lift fierce against his Mother! Thus they make  
Of transient Evil ever-during Good  
Themselves probationary, and denied  
Confess'd to view by preternatural deed  
To o'erwhelm the will, save on some fated day  
Headstrong, or with petition'd might from God.  
And such perhaps the guardian Power whose ken  
Still dwelt on France. He from the invisible World  
Burst on the MAIDEN's eye, impregnning Air  
With Voices and strange Shapes, illusions apt  
Shadowy of Truth. [And first a landscape rose  
More wild and waste and desolate, than where  
The white bear drifting on a field of ice  
Howls to her sunder'd cubs with piteous rage  
And savage agony.] Mid the drear scene  
A craggy mass uprear'd its misty brow,  
Untouch'd by breath of Spring, unwont to know  
Red Summer's influence, or the cheerful face  
Of Autumn; yet its fragments many and huge  
Astounded ocean with the dreadful dance  
Of whirlpools numberless, absorbing oft  
The blameless fisher at his perilous toil. 4<sup>o</sup>.

*Note*—Lines 148–223 of the Second Book of *Joan of Arc* are by Southey. Coleridge's unpublished poem of 1796 (*The Visions of the Maid of Orleans*) begins at line 127 of the text, ending at line 277. The remaining portion of the *Destiny of Nations* is taken from lines contributed to the Second Book. Lines 136–40 of variant 130 foll. form the concluding fragment of the *Destiny of Nations*. Lines 141–3 of the variant are by Southey. (See his Preface to *Joan of Arc*, 1796, p. vi.) The remaining lines of the variant were never reprinted.

132 human] mortal Sibylline Leaves (correction made in Errata, p. [xii]).

Held commune with that warrior-maid of France  
 Who scourged the Invader. From her infant days,  
 With Wisdom, mother of retired thoughts,      140  
 Her soul had dwelt; and she was quick to mark  
 The good and evil thing, in human lore  
 Undisciplined. For lowly was her birth,  
 And Heaven had doomed her early years to toil  
 That pure from Tyranny's least deed, herself      145  
 Unfeared by Fellow-natures, she might wait  
 On the poor labouring man with kindly looks,  
 And minister refreshment to the tired  
 Way-wanderer, when along the rough-hewn bench  
 The sweltry man had stretched him, and aloft      150  
 Vacantly watched the rudely-pictured board  
 Which on the Mulberry-bough with welcome creak  
 Swung to the pleasant breeze. Here, too, the Maid  
 Learnt more than Schools could teach: Man's shifting mind,  
 His vices and his sorrows! And full oft      155  
 At tales of cruel wrong and strange distress  
 Had wept and shivered. To the tottering Eld  
 Still as a daughter would she run: she placed  
 His cold limbs at the sunny door, and loved  
 To hear him story, in his garrulous sort,      160  
 Of his eventful years, all come and gone.

So twenty seasons past. The Virgin's form,  
 Active and tall, nor Sloth nor Luxury  
 Had shrunk or paled. Her front sublime and broad,  
 Her flexile eye-brows wildly haired and low,      165  
 And her full eye, now bright, now unillumed,  
 Spake more than Woman's thought; and all her face  
 Was moulded to such features as declared  
 That Pity there had oft and strongly worked,  
 And sometimes Indignation. Bold her mien,      170  
 And like an haughty huntress of the woods  
 She moved: yet sure she was a gentle maid!  
 And in each motion her most innocent soul  
 Beamed forth so brightly, that who saw would say  
 Guilt was a thing impossible in her!      175  
 Nor idly would have said—for she had lived  
 In this bad World, as in a place of Tombs,  
 And touched not the pollutions of the Dead.

'Twas the cold season when the Rustic's eye  
 From the drear desolate whiteness of his fields  
 Rolls for relief to watch the skiey tints  
 And clouds slow-varying their huge imagery ;  
 When now, as she was wont, the healthful Maid  
 Had left her pallet ere one beam of day  
 Slanted the fog-smoke. She went forth alone  
 Urged by the indwelling angel-guide, that oft,  
 With dim inexplicable sympathies  
 Disquieting the heart, shapes out Man's course  
 To the predoomed adventure. Now the ascent  
 She climbs of that steep upland, on whose top  
 The Pilgrim-man, who long since eve had watched  
 The alien shine of unconcerning stars,  
 Shouts to himself, there first the Abbey-lights  
 Seen in Neufchâtel's vale; now slopes adown  
 The winding sheep-track vale-ward : when, behold  
 In the first entrance of the level road  
 An unattended team ! The foremost horse  
 Lay with stretched limbs; the others, yet alive  
 But stiff and cold, stood motionless, their manes  
 Hoar with the frozen night-dews. Dismally  
 The dark-red dawn now glimmered ; but its gleams  
 Disclosed no face of man. The maiden paused,  
 Then hailed who might be near. No voice replied.  
 From the thwart wain at length there reached her ear  
 A sound so feeble that it almost seemed  
 Distant: and feebly, with slow effort pushed.  
 A miserable man crept forth : his limbs  
 The silent frost had eat, scathing like fire.  
 Faint on the shafts he rested. She, meantime,  
 Saw crowded close beneath the coverture  
 A mother and her children—lifeless all,  
 Yet lovely ! not a lineament was marred—  
 Death had put on so slumber-like a form !  
 It was a piteous sight ; and one, a babe,  
 The crisp milk frozen on its innocent lips,  
 Lay on the woman's arm, its little hand  
 Stretched on her bosom.

Mutely questioning,  
 The Maid gazed wildly at the living wretch.

He, his head feebly turning, on the group  
 Looked with a vacant stare, and his eye spoke      220  
 The drowsy calm that steals on worn-out anguish.  
 She shuddered; but, each vainer pang subdued,  
 Quick disentangling from the foremost horse  
 The rustic bands, with difficulty and toil  
 The stiff cramped team forced homeward. There arrived,      225  
 Anxiously tends him she with healing herbs,  
 And weeps and prays—but the numb power of Death  
 Spreads o'er his limbs; and ere the noon-tide hour,  
 The hovering spirits of his Wife and Babes  
 Hail him immortal! Yet amid his pangs,      230  
 With interruptions long from ghastly throes,  
 His voice had faltered out this simple tale.

The Village, where he dwelt an husbandman,  
 By sudden inroad had been seized and fired  
 Late on the yester-evening. With his wife      235  
 And little ones he hurried his escape.  
 They saw the neighbouring hamlets flame, they heard  
 Uproar and shrieks! and terror-struck drove on  
 Through unfrequented roads, a weary way!  
 But saw nor house nor cottage. All had quenched      240  
 Their evening hearth-fire: for the alarm had spread.  
 The air clipt keen, the night was fanged with frost,  
 And they provisionless! The weeping wife  
 Ill hushed her children's moans; and still they moaned,  
 Till Fright and Cold and Hunger drank their life.      245  
 They closed their eyes in sleep, nor knew 'twas Death.  
 He only, lashing his o'er-wearied team,  
 Gained a sad respite, till beside the base  
 Of the high hill his foremost horse dropped dead.  
 Then hopeless, strengthless, sick for lack of food,      250  
 He crept beneath the coverture, entranced,  
 Till wakened by the maiden.—Such his tale.

Ah! suffering to the height of what was suffered,  
 Stung with too keen a sympathy, the Maid  
 Brooded with moving lips, mute, startful, dark!      255  
 And now her flushed tumultuous features shot  
 Such strange vivacity, as fires the eye  
 Of Misery fancy-crazed! and now once more  
 Naked, and void, and fixed, and all within  
 The unquiet silence of confuséd thought      260

And shapeless feelings. For a mighty hand  
Was strong upon her, till in the heat of soul  
To the high hill-top tracing back her steps,  
Aside the beacon, up whose smouldered stones  
The tender ivy-trails crept thinly, there,  
Unconscious of the driving element,  
Yea, swallowed up in the ominous dream, she sate  
Ghastly as broad-eyed Slumber! a dim anguish  
Breathed from her look! and still with pant and sob,  
Inly she toiled to flee, and still subdued,  
Felt an inevitable Presence near.

Thus as she toiled in troublous ecstasy,  
A horror of great darkness wrapt her round,  
And a voice uttered forth unearthly tones,  
Calming her soul,—‘O Thou of the Most High  
Chosen, whom all the perfected in Heaven  
Behold expectant —’

[The following fragments were intended to form part of the poem when finished.]

280

1 'Maid beloved of Heaven !  
(To her the tutelary Power exclaimed)  
Of Chaos the adventurous progeny  
Thou seest ; foul missionaries of foul sire,  
Fierce to regain the losses of that hour  
When Love rose glittering, and his gorgeous wings  
Over the abyss fluttered with such glad noise,  
As what time after long and pestful calms,  
With slimy shapes and miscreated life  
Poisoning the vast Pacific, the fresh breeze  
Wakens the merchant-sail uprising. Night  
An heavy unimaginable moan  
Sent forth, when she the Protoplasm beheld  
Stand beauteous on Confusion's charméd wave.  
Moaning she fled, and entered the Profound  
That leads with downward windings to the Cave  
Of Darkness palpable, Desert of Death  
Sunk deep beneath Gehenna's massy roots.  
There many a dateless age the Beldame lurked

285

290

295

<sup>1</sup> These are very fine Lines, tho' I say it, that should not: but, hang me, if I know or ever did know the meaning of them, tho' my own composition. *MS. Note by S. T. C.*

And trembled; till engendered by fierce Hate,  
 Fierce Hate and gloomy Hope, a Dream arose,  
 Shaped like a black cloud marked with streaks of fire.  
 It roused the Hell-Hag: she the dew-damp wiped      300  
 From off her brow, and through the uncouth maze  
 Retraced her steps; but ere she reached the mouth  
 Of that drear labyrinth, shuddering she paused,  
 Nor dared re-enter the diminished Gulph.  
 As through the dark vaults of some mouldered Tower      305  
 (Which, fearful to approach, the evening hind  
 Circles at distance in his homeward way)  
 The winds breathe hollow, deemed the plaining groan  
 Of prisoned spirits; with such fearful voice  
 Night murmured, and the sound through Chaos went.      310  
 Leaped at her call her hideous-fronted brood!  
 A dark behest they heard, and rushed on earth;  
 Since that sad hour, in Camps and Courts adored,  
 Rebels from God, and Tyrants o'er Mankind!'

From his obscure haunt      315

Shrieked Fear, of Cruelty the ghastly Dam,  
 Feverous yet freezing, eager-paced yet slow,  
 As she that creeps from forth her swampy reeds,  
 Ague, the biform Hag! when early Spring  
 Beams on the marsh-bred vapours.      320

300 dew-damp] dew-damps <sup>4<sup>o</sup></sup>.      314 Tyrants] Monarchs <sup>4<sup>o</sup></sup>, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, 1829.

Between lines 314 and 315 of the text, the text of the original version (after line 259 of *Joan of Arc*, Book II) continues:—

‘These are the fiends that o'er thy native land      260  
 Spread Guilt and Horror. Maid belov'd of Heaven!  
 Dar'st thou inspir'd by the holy flame of Love  
 Encounter such fell shapes, nor fear to meet  
 Their wrath, their wiles? O Maiden dar'st thou die?’  
 ‘Father of Heaven! I will not fear,’ she said,      265  
 ‘My arm is weak, but mighty is thy sword.’  
 She spake and as she spake the trump was heard  
 That echoed ominous o'er the streets of Rome,  
 When the first Caesar totter'd o'er the grave  
 By Freedom delv'd: the Trump, whose chilling blast      270  
 On Marathon and on Plataea's plain  
 Scatter'd the Persian.—From his obscure haunt, &c.

[Lines 267-72, She spake . . . the Persian, are claimed by Southey.]

316 Shriek'd Fear the ghastliest of Ambition's throng <sup>4<sup>o</sup></sup>.      317  
 Feverous] Fev'rish <sup>4<sup>o</sup></sup>, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829.



At length awakening slow, she gazed around :  
 And through a mist, the relict of that trance  
 Still thinning as she gazed, an Isle appeared,  
 Its high, o'er-hanging, white, broad-breasted cliffs,  
 Glassed on the subject ocean. A vast plain  
 Stretched opposite, where ever and anon  
 The plough-man following sad his meagre team      340  
 Turned up fresh sculls unstartled, and the bones  
 Of fierce hate-breathing combatants, who there  
 All mingled lay beneath the common earth,  
 Death's gloomy reconciliation ! O'er the fields  
 Stept a fair Form, repairing all she might,      345  
 Her temples olive-wreathed ; and where she trod,  
 Fresh flowerets rose, and many a foodful herb.  
 But wan her cheek, her footsteps insecure,  
 And anxious pleasure beamed in her faint eye,  
 As she had newly left a couch of pain,      355  
 Pale Convalescent ! (Yet some time to rule  
 With power exclusive o'er the willing world,  
 That blessed prophetic mandate then fulfilled—  
 Peace be on Earth !) An happy while, but brief,  
 She seemed to wander with assiduous feet,      360  
 And healed the recent harm of chill and blight,  
 And nursed each plant that fair and virtuous grew.

But soon a deep precursive sound moaned hollow :  
 Black rose the clouds, and now, (as in a dream)  
 Their reddening shapes, transformed to Warrior-hosts,      365  
 Coursed o'er the sky, and battled in mid-air.  
 Nor did not the large blood-drops fall from Heaven  
 Portentous ! while aloft were seen to float,  
 Like hideous features looming on the mist,  
 Wan stains of ominous light ! Resigned, yet sad,      370  
 The fair Form bowed her olive-crownéd brow,  
 Then o'er the plain with oft-reverted eye

339-40 But lo ! no more was seen the ice-pil'd mount  
 And meteor-lighted dome.—An Isle appear'd  $\frac{4}{9}$ .

342 white] rough  $\frac{4}{9}$ .      361 and] or  $\frac{4}{9}$ .

366-7 The Sea meantime his Billows darkest roll'd,  
 And each stain'd wave dash'd on the shore a corse.  $\frac{4}{9}$ .

369-72 His hideous features blended with the mist,  
 The long black locks of SLAUGHTER. PEACE beheld  
 And o'er the plain  $\frac{4}{9}$ .

369 Like hideous features blended with the clouds *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817.  
 (Errata : for 'blended', &c., read 'looming on the mist'. S. L., p. [xii].)

Fled till a place of Tombs she reached, and there  
Within a ruined Sepulchre obscure  
Found hiding-place.

## The delegated Maid

375

Gazed through her tears, then in sad tones exclaimed ;—

‘Thou mild-eyed Form ! wherefore, ah ! wherefore fled ?

The Power of Justice like a name all light,

Shone from thy brow ; but all they, who unblamed

Dwelt in thy dwellings, call thee Happiness.

380

Ah ! why, uninjured and unprofited,

Should multitudes against their brethren rush ?

Why sow they guilt, still reaping misery ?

Lenient of care, thy songs, O Peace ! are sweet,<sup>1</sup>

385

As after showers the perfumed gale of eve,

That flings the cool drops on a feverous cheek ;

And gay thy grassy altar piled with fruits.

But boasts the shrine of Daemon War one charm,<sup>2</sup>

Save that with many an orgie strange and foul,<sup>3</sup>

Dancing around with interwoven arms,

390

The Maniac Suicide and Giant Murder

Exult in their fierce union ! I am sad,

And know not why the simple peasants crowd

Beneath the Chieftains’ standard !’ Thus the Maid.

To her the tutelary Spirit said :

395

‘When Luxury and Lust’s exhausted stores

No more can rouse the appetites of kings ;

When the low flattery of their reptile lords

Falls flat and heavy on the accustomed ear ;

When eunuchs sing, and fools buffoonery make,

400

And dancers writh the harlot-limbs in vain ;

Then War and all its dread vicissitudes

Pleasingly agitate their stagnant hearts ;

<sup>1</sup> A grievous defect here in the rhyme recalling assonance of Peace, sweet eve, cheek. Better thus :—

Sweet are thy Songs, O Peace ! lenient of care.

S. T. C., 1828.

<sup>2</sup> 388-93 Southeyan. To be omitted. S. T. C., 1828.

<sup>3</sup> A vile line [*foul* is underlined]. S. T. C., 1828.

378-9 The name of JUSTICE written on thy brow  
Resplendent shone <sup>40</sup>, S. L. 1817.

(The reading of the text is given as an emendation in the *Errata, Sibylline Leaves, 1817*, p. [xii].)

386 That plays around the sick man’s throbbing temples <sup>40</sup>.  
Chieftains’] Chieftain’s <sup>40</sup>. 395 said] replied <sup>40</sup>, S. L., 1828.

394

Its hopes, its fears, its victories, its defeats,  
Insipid Royalty's keen condiment ! 405  
*Therefore uninjured and unprofited*  
 (Victims at once and executioners),  
 The congregated Husbandmen lay waste  
 The vineyard and the harvest. As along  
 The Bothnic coast, or southward of the Line, 410  
 Though hushed the winds and cloudless the high noon,  
 Yet if Leviathan, weary of ease,  
 In sports unwieldy toss his island-bulk,  
 Ocean behind him billows, and before  
 A storm of waves breaks foamy on the strand. 415  
 And hence, for times and seasons bloody and dark,  
 Short Peace shall skin the wounds of causeless War,  
 And War, his strainéd sinews knit anew,  
 Still violate the unfinished works of Peace.  
 But yonder look ! for more demands thy view !' 420  
 He said: and straightway from the opposite Isle  
 A vapour sailed, as when a cloud, exhaled  
 From Egypt's fields that steam hot pestilence,  
 Travels the sky for many a trackless league,  
 Till o'er some death-doomed land, distant in vain, 425  
 It broods incumbent. Forthwith from the plain,  
 Facing the Isle, a brighter cloud arose,  
 And steered its course which way the vapour went.

The Maiden paused, musing what this might mean.

Between lines 421 and 423 of the text, the text of *Joan of Arc*, Book II, inserts :—

A Vapor rose, pierc'd by the MAIDEN's eye.  
 Guiding its course OPPRESSION sate within,\*  
 With terror pale and rage, yet laugh'd at times  
 Musing on Vengeance: trembled in his hand  
 A Sceptre fiercely-grasp'd. O'er Ocean westward  
 The Vapor sail'd  $\textit{4}^o$ .

\* These images imageless, these *Small-Capitals* constituting themselves Personifications, I despised even at that time; but was forced to introduce them, to preserve the connection with the machinery of the Poem, previously adopted by Southey. S. T. C.

After 429 of the text, the text of *Joan of Arc* inserts :—

ENVY sate guiding—ENVY, hag-abhor'd !  
 Like JUSTICE mask'd, and doom'd to aid the fight 430  
 Victorious 'gainst oppression. Hush'd awhile  $\textit{4}^o$ .

[These lines were assigned by Coleridge to Southey.]

But long time passed not, ere that brighter cloud  
Returned more bright; along the plain it swept;  
And soon from forth its bursting sides emerged  
A dazzling form, broad-bosomed, bold of eye,  
And wild her hair, save where with laurels bound.  
Not more majestic stood the healing God,<sup>1</sup>  
When from his bow the arrow sped that slew  
Huge Python. Shriek'd Ambition's giant throng,  
And with them hissed the locust-fiends that crawled  
And glittered in Corruption's slimy track.  
Great was their wrath, for short they knew their reign;<sup>440</sup>  
And such commotion made they, and uproar,  
As when the mad Tornado bellows through  
The guilty islands of the western main,  
What time departing from their native shores,<sup>2</sup>  
Eboe, or Koromantyn's plain of palms,  
The infuriate spirits of the murdered make  
Fierce merriment, and vengeance ask of Heaven.  
Warmed with new influence, the unwholesome plain  
Sent up its foulest fogs to meet the morn:  
The Sun that rose on Freedom, rose in Blood!

'Maiden beloved, and Delegate of Heaven!  
(To her the tutelary Spirit said)  
Soon shall the Morning struggle into Day,  
The stormy Morning into cloudless Noon.  
Much hast thou seen, nor all canst understand—  
But this be thy best omen—Save thy Country!  
Thus saying, from the answering Maid he passed  
And with him disappeared the heavenly Vision.

'Glory to Thee, Father of Earth and Heaven!  
All-conscious Presence of the Universe!

<sup>1</sup> The Apollo Belvedere.

<sup>2</sup> The Slaves in the West-India Islands consider Death as a passport to their native country. The Sentiment is thus expressed in the Introduction to a Greek Prize Ode on the Slave-Trade, of which

434 with] by  $4^o$ .

437-8 Shriek'd AMBITION's ghastly throng

And with them those the locust Fiends that crawl'd \* 4<sup>o</sup>.

\*—if Locusts how could they shriek? I must have caught the contagion of unthinkingness. S. T. C. 4<sup>o</sup>.

458 heavenly] goodly 4<sup>o</sup>.

Nature's vast ever-acting Energy!<sup>1</sup>  
 In will, in deed, Impulse of All to All!  
 Whether thy Love with unrefracted ray  
 Beam on the Prophet's purgéd eye, or if  
 Diseasing realms the Enthusiast, wild of thought,465  
 Scatter new frenzies on the infected throng,  
 Thou both inspiring and predooming both,

the Ideas are better than the Language or Metre, in which they are conveyed :—

Ω σκύτου πύλας, Θάνατε, προλείπων  
 'Εσ γένος σπεύδοις ὑπόξευχθὲν Ἀτα·  
 Οὐ ρενισθήσῃ γεννών σπαραγμοῖς  
 Οὐδ' ὀλολυγμῷ,  
 'Αλλὰ καὶ κύκλοισι χοροιτύποισι  
 Κάσμάτων χαρᾶ· φοβερὸς μὲν ἐσσί,  
 'Αλλ' ὅμῶς 'Ελευθερίᾳ συνοικεῖς,  
 Στυγνὴ Τύραννε!  
 Δασκίοις ἐπὶ πτερύγεσσι σῆσι  
 'Α! θαλάσσιον καθορῶντες οἶδμα  
 Αἰθεροπλάγκτοις ὑπὸ πόσσ' ἀνεῖσι  
 Πατρίδ' ἐπ' αἴαν,  
 'Ενθα μὰν 'Εραστὰλ 'Ερωμένησιν  
 'Αμφὶ πηγῆσιν κιτρίνων ὑπ' ἀλσῶν,  
 "Οσσ' ὑπὸ βροτοῖς ἔπαθον βροτοί, τὰ  
 Δεινὰ λέγοντι.

\* ο before ζ ought to have been made long; δοῖς ὑπόξ is an Amphimacer not (as the metre here requires) a Dactyl. S. T. C.

#### LITERAL TRANSLATION.

Leaving the gates of Darkness, O Death! hasten thou to a Race yoked to Misery! Thou wilt not be received with lacerations of Cheeks, nor with funeral ululation, but with circling Dances and the joy of Songs. Thou art terrible indeed, yet thou dwellest with LIBERTY, stern GENIUS! Borne on thy dark pinions over the swelling of Ocean they return to their native country. There by the side of fountains beneath Citron groves, the Lovers tell to their Beloved, what horrors, being Men, they had endured from Men.

<sup>1</sup> Tho' these Lines may bear a sane sense, yet they are easily, and more naturally interpreted with a very false and dangerous one. But I was at that time one of the *Mongrels*, the Josephidites [Josephides = the Son of Joseph], a proper name of distinction from those who believe in, as well as believe Christ the only begotten Son of the Living God before all Time. MS. Note by S. T. C.

Fit instruments and best, of perfect end:  
Glory to Thee, Father of Earth and Heaven!'

470

And first a landscape rose  
More wild and waste and desolate than where  
The white bear, drifting on a field of ice,  
Howls to her sundered cubs with piteous rage  
And savage agony.

1796.

VER PERPETUUM<sup>1</sup>

## FRAGMENT

From an unpublished poem.

THE early Year's fast-flying vapours stray  
In shadowing trains across the orb of day:  
And we, poor Insects of a few short hours,  
Deem it a world of Gloom.

Were it not better hope a nobler doom,       5  
Proud to believe that with more active powers  
On rapid many-coloured wing  
We thro' one bright perpetual Spring  
Shall hover round the fruits and flowers,  
Screen'd by those clouds and cherish'd by those showers !   10

1796.

ON OBSERVING A BLOSSOM ON THE FIRST  
OF FEBRUARY 1796<sup>2</sup>

SWEET flower! that peeping from thy russet stem  
Unfoldest timidly, (for in strange sort  
This dark, frieze-coated, hoarse, teeth-chattering month

<sup>1</sup> First published without title ('From an unpublished poem') in *The Watchman*, No. iv, March 28, 1796, and reprinted in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 44, with an extract from the Essay in the *Watchman* in which it was included:—'In my calmer moments I have the firmest faith that all things work together for good. But alas! it seems a long and dark process.' First collected with extract only in Appendix to 1863. First entitled 'Fragment from an Unpublished Poem' in 1893, and 'Ver Perpetuum' in 1907.

<sup>2</sup> First published in *The Watchman*, No. vi, April 11, 1796: included in 1797, 1803, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

For lines 470-74 vide ante var. of lines 130 foll.

*On observing, &c.—Title]* Lines on observing, &c., Written near Sheffield, *Watchman*, 1797, 1803.

Hath borrow'd Zephyr's voice, and gazed upon thee  
 With blue voluptuous eye) alas, poor Flower! 5  
 These are but flatteries of the faithless year.  
 Perchance, escaped its unknown polar cave,  
 Even now the keen North-East is on its way.  
 Flower that must perish! shall I liken thee  
 To some sweet girl of too too rapid growth 10  
 Nipp'd by consumption mid untimely charms?  
 Or to Bristowa's bard,<sup>1</sup> the wondrous boy!  
 An amaranth, which earth scarce seem'd to own,  
 Till disappointment came, and pelting wrong  
 Beat it to earth? or with indignant grief 15  
 Shall I compare thee to poor Poland's hope,  
 Bright flower of hope killed in the opening bud?  
 Farewell, sweet blossom! better fate be thine  
 And mock my boding! Dim similitudes  
 Weaving in moral strains, I've stolen one hour 20  
 From anxious Self, Life's cruel taskmaster!  
 And the warm wooings of this sunny day  
 Tremble along my frame and harmonize  
 The attempered organ, that even saddest thoughts  
 Mix with some sweet sensations, like harsh tunes 25  
 Played deftly on a soft-toned instrument.

1796.

TO A PRIMROSE<sup>2</sup>

THE FIRST SEEN IN THE SEASON

Nitens et roboris expers

Turret et insolida est: et spe delectat.

OVID, *Metam.* [xv. 203].

THY smiles I note, sweet early Flower,  
 That peeping from thy rustic bower  
 The festive news to earth dost bring,  
 A fragrant messenger of Spring.

<sup>1</sup> Chatterton.<sup>2</sup> First published in *The Watchman*, No. viii, April 27, 1796: reprinted in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 47. First collected in Appendix to 1863.

<sup>5</sup> With 'blue voluptuous eye' 1803.      Between 13 and 14 Blooming  
 mid Poverty's drear wintry waste *Watchman*, 1797, 1803, S. L., 1817, 1828.  
<sup>16</sup> hope] hopes, *Watchman*.

<sup>21</sup> From black anxiety that gnaws my heart.For her who droops far off on a sick bed. *Watchman*, 1797, 1803.<sup>24</sup> Th' attempered brain, that ev'n the saddest thoughts *Watchman*, 1797, 1803.To a Primrose.—Motto: et] at *L. R.*, App. 1863.

But, tender blossom, why so pale?  
Dost hear stern Winter in the gale?  
And didst thou tempt the ungentle sky  
To catch one vernal glance and die?

5

Such the wan lustre Sickness wears  
When Health's first feeble beam appears;  
So languid are the smiles that seek  
To settle on the care-worn cheek,

10

When timorous Hope the head uprears,  
Still drooping and still moist with tears,  
If, through dispersing grief, be seen  
Of Bliss the heavenly spark serene.

15

And sweeter far the early blow,  
Fast following after storms of Woe,  
Than (Comfort's riper season come)  
Are full-blown joys and Pleasure's gaudy bloom.

20

1796.

VERSES<sup>1</sup>

ADDRESSED TO J. HORNE TOOKE AND THE COMPANY WHO MET ON  
JUNE 28TH, 1796, TO CELEBRATE HIS POLL AT THE WEST-  
MINSTER ELECTION

BRITONS! when last ye met, with distant streak  
So faintly promis'd the pale Dawn to break;  
So dim it stain'd the precincts of the Sky  
E'en *Expectation* gaz'd with doubtful Eye.  
But now such fair Varieties of Light  
O'er take the heavy sailing Clouds of Night;  
Th' Horizon kindles with so rich a red,  
That tho' the *Sun* still hides his glorious head  
Th' impatient Matin-bird, *assur'd of Day*,  
Leaves his low nest to meet its earliest ray;  
Loud the sweet song of Gratulation sings,  
And high in air claps his rejoicing wings!  
Patriot and Sage! whose breeze-like Spirit first  
The lazy mists of Pedantry dispers'd

5

10

10

<sup>1</sup> First printed in the *Transactions of the Philobiblon Society*. First published in *P. W.*, 1893. The verses (without the title) were sent by Coleridge in a letter to the Rev. J. P. Estlin, dated July 4, [1796].

(Mists in which Superstition's *pigmy* band  
 Seem'd Giant Forms, the Genii of the Land !),  
 Thy struggles soon shall wak'ning Britain bless,  
 And Truth and Freedom hail thy wish'd success.  
 Yes *Tooke!* tho' foul Corruption's wolfish throng  
 Outmalice Calumny's imposthum'd Tongue,  
 Thy Country's noblest and *determin'd* Choice,  
 Soon shalt thou thrill the Senate with thy voice ;  
 With gradual Dawn bid Error's phantoms flit,  
 Or wither with the lightning's flash of Wit ;  
 Or with sublimer mien and tones more deep,  
 Charm sworded Justice from mysterious Sleep,  
 'By violated Freedom's loud Lament,  
 Her Lamps extinguish'd and her Temple rent ;  
 By the forc'd tears her captive Martyrs shed ;  
 By each pale Orphan's feeble cry for bread ;  
 By ravag'd Belgium's corse-impeded Flood,  
 And Vendee steaming still with brothers' blood !'  
 And if amid the strong impassion'd Tale,  
 Thy Tongue should falter and thy Lips turn pale ;  
 If transient Darkness film thy aweful Eye,  
 And thy tir'd Bosom struggle with a sigh :  
 Science and Freedom shall demand to hear  
 Who practis'd on a Life so doubly dear ;  
 Infus'd the unwholesome anguish drop by drop,  
 Pois'ning the sacred stream they could not stop !  
 Shall bid thee with recover'd strength relate  
 How dark and deadly is a Coward's Hate :  
 What seeds of death by wan Confinement sown,  
 When Prison-echoes mock'd Disease's groan !  
 Shall bid th' indignant Father flash dismay,  
 And drag the unnatural Villain into Day  
 Who<sup>1</sup> to the sports of his flesh'd Ruffians left  
 Two lovely Mourners of their Sire bereft !  
 'Twas wrong, like this, which Rome's *first Consul* bore,  
 So by th' insulted Female's name *he* swore  
 Ruin (and rais'd her reeking dagger high)  
 Not to the *Tyrants* but the *Tyranny* !

1796.

<sup>1</sup> 'Dundas left thief-takers in Horne Tooke's House for three days, with his two Daughters *alone*: for Horne Tooke keeps no servant.'—*S. T. C. to Estlin.*

31, 32 These lines are borrowed from the first edition (4<sup>o</sup>) of the *Ode to the Departing Year*.

ON A LATE CONNUBIAL RUPTURE IN HIGH  
LIFE<sup>1</sup>

[PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES]

I SIGH, fair injur'd stranger! for thy fate;  
But what shall sighs avail thee? thy poor heart,  
'Mid all the 'pomp and circumstance' of state,  
Shivers in nakedness. Unbidden, start  
Sad recollections of Hope's garish dream,      5  
That shaped a seraph form, and named it Love,  
Its hues gay-varying, as the orient beam  
Varies the neck of Cytherea's dove.

To one soft accent of domestic joy  
Poor are the shouts that shake the high-arch'd dome; 10  
Those plaudits that thy *public* path annoy,  
Alas! they tell thee—Thou'rt a wretch *at home!*

O then retire, and weep! *Their very woes*  
*Solace the guiltless.* Drop the pearly flood  
On thy sweet infant, as the full-blown rose,      15  
Surcharg'd with dew, bends o'er its neighbouring bud.  
And ah! that Truth some holy spell might lend  
To lure thy Wanderer from the Syren's power;  
Then bid your souls inseparably blend  
Like two bright dew-drops meeting in a flower.      20

1796.

SONNET<sup>2</sup>

ON RECEIVING A LETTER INFORMING ME  
OF THE BIRTH OF A SON

WHEN they did greet me father, sudden awe  
Weigh'd down my spirit: I retired and knelt  
Seeking the throne of grace, but inly felt

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Monthly Magazine*, September 1796, vol. ii, pp. 64-7, reprinted in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, Saturday, Oct. 8, 1796, and in the *Poetical Register*, 1806-7 [1811, vol. vi, p. 365]. First collected in *P. and D. W.*, 1877, i. 187. The lines were sent in a letter to Estlin, dated July 4, 1796.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the 'Biographical Supplement' to the *Biographia Literaria*, 1847, ii. 379. First collected in *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80. This

*On a Late, &c.—Title] To an Unfortunate Princess MS. Letter, July 4, 1796.*

*17 might] could MS. Letter, 1796.*

*18 thy] the Felix Farley's, &c.*

*20 meeting] bosomed MS. Letter, 1796.*

*Sonnet on receiving, &c.—Title] Sonnet written on receiving letter informing me of the birth of a son, I being at Birmingham MS. Letter, Nov. 1, 1796,*

No heavenly visitation upwards draw  
My feeble mind, nor cheering ray impart.

Ah me! before the Eternal Sire I brought  
Th' unquiet silence of confused thought  
And shapeless feelings: my o'erwhelmed heart  
Trembled, and vacant tears stream'd down my face.  
And now once more, O Lord! to thee I bend,  
Lover of souls! and groan for future grace,  
That ere my babe youth's perilous maze have trod,  
Thy overshadowing Spirit may descend,  
And he be born again, a child of God.

Sept. 20, 1796.

5

10

### SONNET<sup>1</sup>

COMPOSED ON A JOURNEY HOMeward; THE AUTHOR HAVING  
RECEIVED INTELLIGENCE OF THE BIRTH OF A SON,  
SEPT. 20, 1796

OFT o'er my brain does that strange fancy roll  
Which makes the present (while the flash doth last)  
Seem a mere semblance of some unknown past,  
Mixed with such feelings, as perplex the soul  
Self-questioned in her sleep; and some have said<sup>2</sup>

5

and the two succeeding sonnets were enclosed in a letter to Poole, dated November 1, 1796. A note was affixed to the sonnet 'On Receiving', &c. : 'This sonnet puts in no claim to poetry (indeed as a composition I think so little of them that I neglected to repeat them to you) but it is a most faithful picture of my feelings on a very interesting event. When I was with you they were, indeed, excepting the first, in a rude and undrest shape.'

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1797: included in 1803, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

<sup>2</sup> Ἡν πον ἡμῶν ἡ ψυχὴ πρὶν ἐν τῷδε τῷ ἀνθρωπίνῳ εἶδει γενέσθαι. Plat. *Phaedon*. Cap. xviii. 72 e.

8 shapeless] hopeless *B. L.*

*Sonnet composed, &c.—Title*] Sonnet composed on my journey home from Birmingham *MS. Letter, 1796*: Sonnet ix. To a Friend, &c. 1797: Sonnet xvii. To a Friend, &c. 1803.

1-11 Oft of some unknown Past such Fancies roll  
Swift o'er my brain as make the Present seem  
For a brief moment like a most strange dream  
When not unconscious that she dreamt, the soul  
Questions herself in sleep! and some have said  
We lived ere yet this fleshly robe we wore. *MS. Letter, 1796.*

We liv'd, ere yet this robe of flesh we wore.<sup>1</sup>  
O my sweet baby ! when I reach my door,  
If heavy looks should tell me thou art dead,  
(As sometimes, through excess of hope, I fear)  
I think that I should struggle to believe      10  
Thou wert a spirit, to this nether sphere  
Sentenc'd for some more venial crime to grieve ;  
Did'st scream, then spring to meet Heaven's quick reprieve,  
While we wept idly o'er thy little bier !

1796

SONNET 2

TO A FRIEND WHO ASKED, HOW I FELT WHEN THE NURSE  
FIRST PRESENTED MY INFANT TO ME

CHARLES! my slow heart was only sad, when first  
I scann'd that face of feeble infancy:  
For dimly on my thoughtful spirit burst  
All I had been, and all my child might be!  
But when I saw it on its mother's arm,  
And hanging at her bosom (she the while  
Bent o'er its features with a tearful smile)  
Then I was thrill'd and melted, and most warm  
Impress'd a father's kiss: and all beguil'd  
Of dark remembrance and presageful fear,  
I seem'd to see an angel-form appear—  
'Twas even thine, belovéd woman mild!  
So for the mother's sake the child was dear,  
And dearer was the mother for the child.

1796.

<sup>1</sup> Almost all the followers of Fénelon believe that men are degraded Intelligences who had all once existed together in a paradisiacal or perhaps heavenly state. The first four lines express a feeling which I have often had—the present has appeared like a vivid dream or exact similitude of some past circumstances. *MS. Letter to Poole, Nov. 1, 1796.*

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1797: included in 1803, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. The 'Friend' was, probably, Charles Lloyd.

<sup>6</sup> robe of flesh] fleshy robe 1797, 1803. <sup>8</sup> art] wert *MS. Letter, 1796;* 1797, 1803.

*Sonnet, &c.—Title] To a Friend who wished to know, &c. MS. Letter, Nov. 1, 1796: Sonnet x. To a Friend 1797: Sonnet xix. To a Friend, &c. 1803*

4 child] babe MS. Letter, 1796, 1797, 1803. 5 saw] watch'd MS.  
Letter, 1796. 11 angel-form] Angel's form MS. Letter, 1796, 1797, 1803.

SONNET<sup>1</sup>

[TO CHARLES LLOYD]

THE piteous sobs that choke the Virgin's breath  
 For him, the fair betrothéd Youth, who lies  
 Cold in the narrow dwelling, or the cries  
 With which a Mother wails her darling's death,  
 These from our nature's common impulse spring,      5  
 Unblam'd, unprais'd; but o'er the piléd earth  
 Which hides the sheeted corse of grey-hair'd Worth,  
 If droops the soaring Youth with slacken'd wing;  
 If he recall in saddest minstrelsy  
 Each tenderness bestow'd, each truth imprest,      10  
 Such grief is Reason, Virtue, Piety!  
 And from the Almighty Father shall descend  
 Comforts on his late evening, whose young breast  
 Mourns with no transient love the Agéd Friend.

1796.

TO A YOUNG FRIEND<sup>2</sup>

ON HIS PROPOSING TO DOMESTICATE WITH THE AUTHOR

*Composed in 1796*

A MOUNT, not wearisome and bare and steep,  
 But a green mountain variously up-piled,  
 Where o'er the jutting rocks soft mosses creep,  
 Or colour'd lichens with slow oozing weep;  
 Where cypress and the darker yew start wild;      5  
 And, 'mid the summer torrent's gentle dash  
 Dance brighten'd the red clusters of the ash;  
 Beneath whose boughs, by those still sounds beguil'd,  
 Calm Pensiveness might muse herself to sleep;  
 Till haply startled by some fleecy dam,      10

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Poems on the Death of Priscilla Farmer*. By her Grandson, 1796, folio. It prefaced the same set of Lloyd's Sonnets included in the second edition of *Poems* by S. T. Coleridge, 1797. It was included in C. Lloyd's *Nugae Canorae*, 1819. First collected in *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1797: included in 1803, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, and 1834.

*Sonnet*] 13 *Comforts on his late eve, whose youthful friend.* MS. correction by S. T. C. in copy of *Nugae Canorae* in the British Museum.

*To a Young Friend—Title]* To C. Lloyd on his proposing to domesticate, &c. 1797: *To a Friend, &c. 1803.* ‘Composed in 1796’ was added in *S. L.*

*8 those still]* stilly 1797: stillest 1803.

That rustling on the bushy cliff above  
 With melancholy bleat of anxious love,  
 Made meek enquiry for her wandering lamb :  
 Such a green mountain 'twere most sweet to climb,  
 E'en while the bosom ach'd with loneliness—  
 How more than sweet, if some dear friend should bless  
 The adventurous toil, and up the path sublime  
 Now lead, now follow : the glad landscape round,  
 Wide and more wide, increasing without bound !

O then 'twere loveliest sympathy, to mark  
 The berries of the half-uprooted ash  
 Dripping and bright ; and list the torrent's dash,—  
 Beneath the cypress, or the yew more dark,  
 Seated at ease, on some smooth mossy rock ;  
 In social silence now, and now to unlock  
 The treasur'd heart; arm linked in friendly arm,  
 Save if the one, his muse's witching charm  
 Muttering brow-bent, at unwatch'd distance lag ;  
 Till high o'er head his beckoning friend appears,  
 And from the forehead of the topmost crag  
 Shouts eagerly: for haply *there* uprears  
 That shadowing Pine its old romantic limbs,  
 Which latest shall detain the enamour'd sight  
 Seen from below, when eve the valley dims,  
 Tinged yellow with the rich departing light ;  
 And haply, bason'd in some unsunn'd cleft,  
 A beauteous spring, the rock's collected tears,  
 Sleeps shelter'd there, scarce wrinkled by the gale !

Together thus, the world's vain turmoil left,  
 Stretch'd on the crag, and shadow'd by the pine,  
 And bending o'er the clear delicious fount,  
 Ah ! dearest youth ! it were a lot divine  
 To cheat our noons in moralising mood,  
 While west-winds fann'd our temples toil-bedew'd :

Then downwards slope, oft pausing, from the mount,  
 To some lone mansion, in some woody dale,  
 Where smiling with blue eye, Domestic Bliss  
 Gives *this* the Husband's, *that* the Brother's kiss !

Thus rudely vers'd in allegoric lore,  
 The Hill of Knowledge I essayed to trace ;

11 cliff] clift S. L., 1828, 1829. 16 How heavenly sweet 1797, 1803.  
 42 youth] Lloyd 1797: Charles 1803. 46 lone] low 1797, 1803.

That verdurous hill with many a resting-place,  
And many a stream, whose warbling waters pour  
To glad, and fertilise the subject plains ;  
That hill with secret springs, and nooks untrod,  
And many a fancy-blest and holy sod

55

Where Inspiration, his diviner strains  
Low-murmuring, lay ; and starting from the rock's  
Stiff evergreens, (whose spreading foliage mocks  
Want's barren soil, and the bleak frosts of age,  
And Bigotry's mad fire-invoking rage !)

60

O meek retiring spirit ! we will climb,  
Cheering and cheered, this lovely hill sublime ;

And from the stirring world up-lifted high  
(Whose noises, faintly wafted on the wind,  
To quiet musings shall attune the mind,

65

And oft the melancholy *theme supply*),  
There, while the prospect through the gazing eye  
Pours all its healthful greenness on the soul,  
We'll smile at wealth, and learn to smile at fame,  
Our hopes, our knowledge, and our joys the same,

70

As neighbouring fountains image each the whole :  
Then when the mind hath drunk its fill of truth  
We'll discipline the heart to pure delight,  
Rekindling sober joy's domestic flame.  
They whom I love shall love thee, honour'd youth !

75

Now may Heaven realise this vision bright !

1796.

### ADDRESSED TO A YOUNG MAN OF FORTUNE<sup>1</sup> [C. LLOYD]

WHO ABANDONED HIMSELF TO AN INDOLENT AND CAUSELESS  
MELANCHOLY

HENCE that fantastic wantonness of woe,  
O Youth to partial Fortune vainly dear !

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Cambridge Intelligencer*, December 17, 1796 : included in the Quarto Edition of the *Ode on the Departing Year*, 1796, in

60 And mad oppression's thunder-clasping rage 1797, 1803. 69  
We'll laugh at wealth, and learn to laugh at fame 1797, 1803. 71 In  
1803 the poem ended with line 71. In the *Sibylline Leaves*, 1829, the last  
five lines were replaced. 72 hath drunk] has drank 1797 : hath drank  
*S. L.*, 1828, 1829. 75 She whom I love, shall love thee. Honour'd youth  
1797, *S. L.*, 1817, 1828, 1829. The change of punctuation dates from 1834.

*Addressed to, &c.—Title*] Lines, &c., C. I. : To a Young Man who aban-  
doned himself to a causeless and indolent melancholy *MS. Letter*, 1796.

To plunder'd Want's half-shelter'd hovel go,  
 Go, and some hunger-bitten infant hear  
 Moan haply in a dying mother's ear : 5  
 Or when the cold and dismal fog-damps brood  
 O'er the rank church-yard with sear elm-leaves strew'd,  
 Pace round some widow's grave, whose dearer part  
 Was slaughter'd, where o'er his uncoffin'd limbs  
 The flocking flesh-birds scream'd ! Then, while thy heart 10  
 Groans, and thine eye a fiercer sorrow dims,  
 Know (and the truth shall kindle thy young mind)  
 What Nature makes thee mourn, she bids thee heal !  
 O abject ! if, to sickly dreams resign'd,  
 All effortless thou leave Life's commonweal 15  
 A prey to Tyrants, Murderers of Mankind.

1796.

TO A FRIEND<sup>1</sup>

[CHARLES LAMB]

WHO HAD DECLARED HIS INTENTION OF WRITING NO  
MORE POETRY

DEAR Charles ! whilst yet thou wert a babe, I ween  
 That Genius plung'd thee in that wizard fount  
 Hight Castalie : and (sureties of thy faith)  
 That Pity and Simplicity stood by,  
 And promis'd for thee, that thou shouldst renounce 5  
 The world's low cares and lying vanities,  
 Steadfast and rooted in the heavenly Muse,  
 And wash'd and sanctified to Poesy.

*Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, 1829, and 1834. The lines were sent in a letter to John Thelwall, dated December 17, 1796 (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 207, 208).

<sup>1</sup> First published in a Bristol newspaper in aid of a subscription for the family of Robert Burns (the cutting is bound up with the copy of *Selection of Sonnets (S. S.)* in the Forster Library in the Victoria and Albert Museum) : reprinted in the *Annual Anthology*, 1800 : included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

6-7 These lines were omitted in the *MS. Letter* and 4<sup>o</sup> 1796, but were replaced in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817. 8 Or seek some widow's *MS. Letter*, Dec. 17, 1796. 11 eye] eyes *MS. Letter*, Dec. 9, 1796, C. I.

15-16 earth's common weal

A prey to the thron'd Murderess of Mankind. - *MS. Letter*, 1796.  
 All effortless thou leave Earth's commonweal

A prey to the thron'd Murderers of Mankind. C. I., 1796, 4<sup>o</sup>.

1 whilst] while *An. Anth.* 3 of] for *S. S.*, *An. Anth.*

Yes—thou wert plung'd, but with forgetful hand  
Held, as by Thetis erst her warrior son :  
And with those recreant unbaptizéd heels  
Thou'rt flying from thy bounden ministeries—  
So sore it seems and burthensome a task  
To weave unwithering flowers ! But take thou heed :  
For thou art vulnerable, wild-eyed boy,  
And I have arrows<sup>1</sup> mystically dipped  
Such as may stop thy speed. Is thy Burns dead ?  
And shall he die unwept, and sink to earth  
'Without the meed of one melodious tear' ?  
Thy Burns, and Nature's own belovéd bard,  
Who to the ' Illustrious<sup>2</sup> of his native Land  
So properly did look for patronage.  
Ghost of Mæcenas ! hide thy blushing face !  
They snatch'd him from the sickle and the plough—  
To gauge ale-firkins.

Oh ! for shame return !

On a bleak rock, midway the Aonian mount,  
There stands a lone and melancholy tree,  
Whose agéd branches to the midnight blast  
Make solemn music: pluck its darkest bough,  
Ere yet the unwholesome night-dew be exhaled,  
And weeping wreath it round thy Poet's tomb.  
Then in the outskirts, where pollutions grow,  
Pick the rank henbane and the dusky flowers  
Of night-shade, or its red and tempting fruit,  
These with stopped nostril and glove-guarded hand  
Knit in nice intertexture, so to twine,  
The illustrious brow of Scotch Nobility !

1796.

<sup>1</sup> [Πολλά μοι ὑπ' ἀγκῶνος ὥκεα βέλη  
Ἐνδον ἐντὶ φαρέτρας  
Φωνᾶντα συνετοῖσιν.]

Pind. *Olymp.* ii. 149, κ. τ. λ.

<sup>2</sup> Verbatim from Burns's Dedication of his Poems to the Nobility and Gentry of the Caledonian Hunt.

25 gauge] guard *S. L.*, 1817 (For 'guard' read 'guage'. *Errata*, p. [xii]).  
33 stinking hensbane *S. S.*, *An. Anth.*: hensbane *S. L.*, 1817. 35 Those  
with stopped nostrils MS. correction in printed slip of the newspaper. See  
*P. and D. W.*, 1877, ii. 379. After 37 ESTEESI 1796, *An. Anth.*

ODE TO THE DEPARTING YEAR<sup>1</sup>

'Ιοὺ λού, ὁ ὁ κακά.

'Τπ' αῦ με δεινὸς ὀρθομαντέιας πήνος  
Στροβεῖ, ταράσσων φροιμίοις δυσφροιμίοις.

Τὸ μέλλον ἥξει. Καὶ σύ μ' ἐν τάχει παρὼν

'Αγαν ἀληθόμαντιν οἰκτείρας ἐρεῖς.

Aeschyl. *Agam.* 1173-75; 1199-1200.

## ARGUMENT

THE Ode<sup>2</sup> commences with an address to the Divine Providence that regulates into one vast harmony all the events of time, however calamitous some of them may appear to mortals. The second Strophe calls on men to suspend their private joys and sorrows, and devote them for a while to the cause of human nature in general. The first Epode speaks of the Empress of Russia, who died of an apoplexy on the 17th of November 1796; having just concluded a subsidiary treaty with the Kings combined against France. The first and second Antistrophe describe the Image of the Departing Year, etc., as in a vision. The second Epode prophesies, in anguish of spirit, the downfall of this country.

## I

SPIRIT who sweepest the wild Harp of Time!

It is most hard, with an untroubled ear

Thy dark inwoven harmonies to hear!

Yet, mine eye fix'd on Heaven's unchanging clime

Long had I listen'd, free from mortal fear,

5

With inward stillness, and a bowēd mind;

When lo! its folds far waving on the wind,

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Cambridge Intelligencer*, December 31, 1796, and at the same time issued in a quarto pamphlet (the Preface is dated December 26): included in 1797, 1803, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. The Argument was first published in 1797. In 1803 the several sentences were printed as notes to the Strophes, Antistrophes, &c. For the Dedication vide Appendices.

This Ode was written on the 24th, 25th, and 26th days of December, 1796; and published separately on the last day of the year. *Footnote*, 1797, 1803: This Ode was composed and was first published on the last day of that year. *Footnote*, S. L., 1817, 1828, 1829, 1834.

<sup>2</sup> The Ode commences with an address to the great BEING, or Divine

*Ode to the, &c.—Title*] Ode for the last day of the Year 1796, C. I.: Ode on the Departing Year<sup>4</sup>, 1797, 1803, S. L., 1817, 1828, 1829.

*Motto*] 3-5 All editions (4<sup>o</sup> to 1834) read ἑψημίοις for δυσφροιμίοις, and 'Αγαν γ' for 'Αγαν; and all before 1834 μῆν for μ' ἐν.

I] Strophe I C. I., 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803. 1 Spirit] Being 1803. 4 unchanging] unchanged 4<sup>o</sup>. 5 free] freed 4<sup>o</sup>. 6 and a bowēd] and submitted 1803, S. L., 1817, 1828, 1829.

7 When lo! far onwards waving on the wind

I saw the skirts of the DEPARTING YEAR. C. I., 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803.

I saw the train of the Departing Year !  
 Starting from my silent sadness  
 Then with no unholy madness,  
 Ere yet the enter'd cloud foreclos'd my sight,  
 I rais'd the impetuous song, and solemnis'd his flight.

II<sup>1</sup>

Hither, from the recent tomb,  
 From the prison's direr gloom,  
 From Distemper's midnight anguish ;  
 And thence, where Poverty doth waste and languish ;  
 Or where, his two bright torches blending,  
 Love illuminates Manhood's maze ;  
 Or where o'er cradled infants bending,  
 Hope has fix'd her wishful gaze ;  
 Hither, in perplexéd dance,  
 Ye Woes ! ye young-eyed Joys ! advance !  
 By Time's wild harp, and by the hand  
 Whose indefatigable sweep  
 Raises its fateful strings from sleep,  
 I bid you haste, a mix'd tumultuous band !  
 From every private bower,  
 And each domestic hearth,  
 Haste for one solemn hour ;  
 And with a loud and yet a louder voice,  
 O'er Nature struggling in portentous birth,  
 Weep and rejoice !  
 Still echoes the dread Name that o'er the earth<sup>2</sup>

Providence, who regulates into one vast Harmony all the Events of Time,  
 however Calamitous some of them appear to mortals. 1803.

<sup>1</sup> The second Strophe calls on men to suspend their private Joys and Sorrows, and to devote their passions for a while to the cause of human Nature in general. 1803.

<sup>2</sup> The Name of Liberty, which at the commencement of the French

11 Ere yet he pierc'd the cloud and mock'd my sight C. I. fore-  
 clos'd] forebade 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803. II] Strophe II C. I., 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803.

15-16 From Poverty's heart-wasting languish

From Distemper's midnight anguish C. I., 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803.

22 Ye Sorrows, and ye Joys advance C. I. ye] and 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803.

25 Forbids its fateful strings to sleep C. I., 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803. 31 O'er the  
 sore travail of the common Earth C. I., 4<sup>o</sup>.

33-7 Seiz'd in sore travail and portentous birth

(Her eyeballs flashing a pernicious glare)

Sick Nature struggles ! Hark ! her pangs increase !

Her groans are horrible ! but O ! most fair

The promis'd Twins she bears—Equality and Peace ! C. I., 4<sup>o</sup>.

Let slip the storm, and woke the brood of Hell:

And now advance in saintly Jubilee

Justice and Truth! They too have heard thy spell,  
They too obey thy name, divinest Liberty!

35

III<sup>1</sup>

I mark'd Ambition in his war-array!

I heard the mailed Monarch's troublous cry—

'Ah! wherefore does the Northern Conqueress stay?<sup>2</sup>' 40  
Groans not her chariot on its onward way?

Fly, mailed Monarch, fly!

Stunn'd by Death's twice mortal mace,

No more on Murder's lurid face

The insatiate Hag shall gloat with drunken eye!

45

Manes of the unnumber'd slain!

Ye that gasp'd on Warsaw's plain!

Ye that erst at Ismail's tower,

When human ruin choked the streams,

Fell in Conquest's glutt'd hour,

50

Mid women's shrieks and infants' screams!

Spirits of the uncoffin'd slain,

Revolution was both the occasion and the pretext of unnumbered crimes and horrors. 1803.

<sup>1</sup> The first Epode refers to the late Empress of Russia, who died of an apoplexy on the 17th of November, 1796, having just concluded a subsidiary treaty with the kings combined against France. 1803. The Empress died just as she had engaged to furnish more effectual aid to the powers combined against France. C.I.

<sup>2</sup> A subsidiary Treaty had been just concluded; and Russia was to have furnished more effectual aid than that of pious manifestoes to the Powers combined against France. I rejoice—not over the deceased Woman (I never dared figure the Russian Sovereign to my imagination under the dear and venerable Character of WOMAN—WOMAN, that complex term for Mother, Sister, Wife!) I rejoice, as at the disenshrining of a Daemon! I rejoice, as at the extinction of the evil Principle impersonated! This very day, six years ago, the massacre of Ismail was perpetrated. THIRTY THOUSAND HUMAN BEINGS, MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN, murdered in cold blood, for no other crime than that their garrison had defended the place with perseverance and bravery. Why should I recal the poisoning of her husband, her iniquities in Poland, or her late un-

36 thy] the 1797, 1803. III] Epode C.I., 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803. 40 Ah!  
whither C.I., 4<sup>o</sup>. 41 on] o'er C.I., 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803. 43 'twice mortal'  
mace C.I., 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803. 45 The insatiate] That tyrant C.I. drunken]  
frenzied C.I.

Between 51 and 52

Whose shrieks, whose screams were vain to stir

Loud-laughing, red-eyed Massacre C.I., 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803.

Sudden blasts of triumph swelling,  
Oft, at night, in misty train,  
Rush around her narrow dwelling !  
The exterminating Fiend is fled—  
(Foul her life, and dark her doom)  
Mighty armies of the dead  
Dance, like death-fires, round her tomb !  
Then with prophetic song relate,  
Each some Tyrant-Murderer's fate !

motived attack on Persia, the desolating ambition of her public life, or the libidinous excesses of her private hours ! I have no wish to qualify myself for the office of Historiographer to the King of Hell — ! December, 23, 1796. 4°.

58 armies] Army *C. I.*, 4°, 1797, 1803. 61 Tyrant-Murderer's] scepter'd Murderer's *C. I.*, 4°, 1797, 1803.

*After 61* When shall sceptred SLAUGHTER cease ?  
A while he crouch'd, O Victor France !  
Beneath the lightning of thy lance ;  
With treacherous dalliance courting PEACE—\*  
But soon upstarting from his coward trance  
The boastful bloody Son of Pride betray'd  
His ancient hatred of the dove-eyed Maid.  
A cloud, O Freedom ! cross'd thy orb of Light,  
And sure he deem'd that orb was set in night :  
For still does MADNESS roam on GUILT's bleak dizzy height ! *C. I.*  
When shall sceptred, &c.

With treacherous dalliance wooing Peace.  
But soon up-springing from his dastard trance  
The boastful bloody Son of Pride betray'd  
His hatred of the blest and blessing Maid.  
One cloud, O Freedom ! cross'd thy orb of Light,  
And sure he deem'd that orb was quench'd in night :  
For still, &c. 4°.

\* To juggle this easily-juggled people into better humour with the supplies (and themselves, perhaps, affrighted by the successes of the French) our Ministry sent an Ambassador to Paris to sue for Peace. The supplies are granted : and in the meantime the Archduke Charles turns the scale of victory on the Rhine, and Buonaparte is checked before Mantua. Straightways our courtly messenger is commanded to *uncurl* his lips, and propose to the lofty Republic to *restore* all *its* conquests, and to suffer England to *retain* all *hers* (at least all her *important* ones), as the only terms of Peace, and the ultimatum of the negotiation !

Θρασύνει γὰρ αἰσχρόμητις  
Τάλαινα ΠΑΡΑΚΟΠΑ πρωτοπήμων.—AESCHYL., Ag. 222-4.

The friends of Freedom in this country are idle. Some are timid ; some are selfish ; and many the torpedo torch of hopelessness has numbed into inactivity. We would fain hope that (if the above account be

IV<sup>1</sup>

Departing Year ! 'twas on no earthly shore  
 My soul beheld thy Vision !<sup>2</sup> Where alone,  
 Voiceless and stern, before the cloudy throne,  
 Aye Memory sits : thy robe inscrib'd with gore,      65  
 With many an unimaginable groan  
 Thou storied'st thy sad hours ! Silence ensued,  
 Deep silence o'er the ethereal multitude,  
 Whose locks with wreaths, whose wreaths with glories shone.  
 Then, his eye wild ardours glancing,      70  
 From the choiréd gods advancing,  
 The Spirit of the Earth made reverence meet,  
 And stood up, beautiful, before the cloudy seat.

## V

Throughout the blissful throng,  
 Hush'd were harp and song :      75  
 Till wheeling round the throne the Lampads seven,  
 (The mystic Words of Heaven)  
 Permissive signal make :  
 The fervent Spirit bow'd, then spread his wings and spake !

accurate—it is only the French account) this dreadful instance of infatuation in our Ministry will rouse them to one effort more; and that at one and the same time in our different great towns the people will be called on to think solemnly, and declare their thoughts fearlessly by every method which the *remnant* of the Constitution allows. <sup>40.</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The first Antistrophe describes the Image of the Departing Year, as in a vision ; and concludes with introducing the Planetary Angel of the Earth preparing to address the Supreme Being. 1803.

<sup>2</sup> 'My soul beheld thy vision !' i. e. Thy Image in a vision. <sup>40.</sup>

IV] Antistrophe I. C. I., 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803.

62 no earthly] an awful C. I.      65 thy... gore] there garmented with gore C. I., 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797.

65-7      Aye Memory sits : thy vest profan'd with gore.  
 Thou with an unimaginable groan  
 Gav'st reck'ning of thy Hours ! 1803.

68 ethereal] choired C. I.      69 Whose purple locks with snow-white glories shone C. I., 4<sup>o</sup>: Whose wreathed locks with snow-white glories shone 1797, 1803.      70 wild] strange C. I.

V] Antistrophe II. C. I., 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803.

74-9      On every Harp on every Tongue  
 While the mute Enchantment hung :  
 Like Midnight from a thunder-cloud  
 Spake the sudden Spirit loud. C. I., 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803.  
 The sudden Spirit cried aloud. C. I.  
 Like Thunder from a Midnight Cloud  
 Spake the sudden Spirit loud 1803.

'Thou in stormy blackness throning  
Love and uncreated Light,  
By the Earth's unsolaced groaning,  
Seize thy terrors, Arm of might !  
By Peace with proffer'd insult scared,  
Masked Hate and envying Scorn !  
By years of Havoc yet unborn !  
And Hunger's bosom to the frost-winds bared !  
But chief by Afric's wrongs,  
Strange, horrible, and foul !  
By what deep guilt belongs  
To the deaf Synod, 'full of gifts and lies !'<sup>1</sup>  
By Wealth's insensate laugh ! by Torture's howl !  
Avenger, rise !  
For ever shall the thankless Island scowl,  
Her quiver full, and with unbroken bow ?  
Speak ! from thy storm-black Heaven O speak aloud !  
And on the darkling foe  
Open thine eye of fire from some uncertain cloud !  
O dart the flash ! O rise and deal the blow !  
The Past to thee, to thee the Future cries !  
Hark ! how wide Nature joins her groans below !  
Rise, God of Nature ! rise.'

<sup>1</sup> Gifts used in Scripture for corruption. C.I.

83 Arm] God C. I.

Between 83 and 84

By Belgium's corse-impeded flood,\*

By Vendee steaming [streaming C. I.] Brother's blood.

C. I., 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803.

\* The Rhine. C. I., 1797, 1803.

85 And mask'd Hate C. I.      87 By Hunger's bosom to the bleak  
winds bar'd C. I.      89 Strange] Most C. I.      90 By] And C. I.

91 Synod] Senate 1797, 1803. 102. Here the Ode ends C. I.

94-102 For ever shall the bloody island scowl?

For ever shall her vast and iron bow

Shoot Famine's evil arrows o'er the world,\*

Hark! how wide Nature joins her groans below;

Rise, God of Mercy, rise ! why sleep thy bolts unhurl'd ? C. I.

For ever shall the bloody Island scowl?

For ever shall the bloody island see...  
For ever unbroken shall her cruel Bo-

For aye, unbroken shall her cruel Bow  
Shoot Famine's arrows o'er thy ravaged World?

Shoot famine's arrows o'er thy ravaged world;  
Hark! how wide Nature sighs her groans below!

Hark! how wide Nature joins her groans below—  
Bitter shades of Nature rise, why sleep thy Bolts unbar'd?

Rise, God of Nature, rise, why sleep thy Bolts unbar'd?  
49 1797-1802

71-201-025) and the last two digits of the serial number.

Rise God of Nature, rise! ah! why those bolts unhurld  
1798-1802

1797, 1803.

VI<sup>1</sup>

The voice had ceas'd, the Vision fled ;  
 Yet still I gasp'd and reel'd with dread.  
 And ever, when the dream of night  
 Renews the phantom to my sight,  
 Cold sweat-drops gather on my limbs ;  
 My ears throb hot; my eye-balls start ;  
 My brain with horrid tumult swims ;  
 Wild is the tempest of my heart ;  
 And my thick and struggling breath  
 Imitates the toil of death !  
 No stranger agony confounds  
 The Soldier on the war-field spread,  
 When all foredone with toil and wounds,  
 Death-like he dozes among heaps of dead !  
 (The strife is o'er, the day-light fled,  
 And the night-wind clamours hoarse !  
 See ! the starting wretch's head  
 Lies pillow'd on a brother's corse !)

105

110

115

120

125

## VII

Not yet enslaved, not wholly vile,  
 O Albion ! O my mother Isle !  
 Thy valleys, fair as Eden's bowers,  
 Glitter green with sunny showers ;  
 Thy grassy uplands' gentle swells  
 Echo to the bleat of flocks ;  
 (Those grassy hills, those glittering dells  
 Proudly ramparted with rocks)  
 And Ocean mid his uproar wild

<sup>1</sup> The poem concludes with prophecying in anguish of Spirit the Downfall of this Country. 1803.

of La Vendée—from Africa the unnumbered victims of a detestable Slave-Trade. In Asia the desolated plains of Indostan, and the millions whom a rice-contracting Governor caused to perish. In America the recent enormities of the Scalp-merchants. The four quarters of the globe groan beneath the intolerable iniquity of the nation.' See 'Addresses to the People', p. 46. C. I.

VI] Epode II. 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803.

103 Vision] Phantoms 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803. 106 phantom] vision 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803. 107 sweat-drops] sweat-damps 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803. 113 stranger] uglier 4<sup>o</sup>. 119 starting] startful 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803. 121 O doom'd to fall, enslav'd and vile 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803.

Speaks safety to his Island-child !

130

Hence for many a fearless age

Has social Quiet lov'd thy shore ;

Nor ever proud Invader's rage

Or sack'd thy towers, or stain'd thy fields with gore.

## VIII

Abandon'd of Heaven !<sup>1</sup> mad Avarice thy guide,

135

At cowardly distance, yet kindling with pride—

Mid thy herds and thy corn-fields secure thou hast stood,

And join'd the wild yelling of Famine and Blood !

The nations curse thee ! They with eager wondering

<sup>1</sup> ‘*Disclaim'd of Heaven!*’—The Poet from having considered the peculiar advantages, which this country has enjoyed, passes in rapid transition to the uses, which we have made of these advantages. We have been preserved by our insular situation, from suffering the actual horrors of War ourselves, and we have shewn our gratitude to Providence for this immunity by our eagerness to spread those horrors over nations less happily situated. In the midst of plenty and safety we have raised or joined the yell for famine and blood. Of the one hundred and seven last years, fifty have been years of War. Such wickedness cannot pass unpunished. We have been proud and confident in our alliances and our fleets—but God has prepared the canker-worm, and will smite the *gourds* of our pride. ‘Art thou better than populous No, that was situate among the rivers, that had the waters round about it, whose rampart was the Sea? Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength and it was infinite: Put and Lubim were her helpers. Yet she was carried away, she went into captivity: and they cast lots for her honourable men, and all her great men were bound in chains. Thou also shalt be drunken: all thy strongholds shall be like fig trees with the first ripe figs; if they be shaken, they shall even fall into the mouth of the eater. Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the stars of heaven. Thy crowned are as the locusts; and thy captains as the great grasshoppers which camp in the hedges in the cool-day; but when the Sun ariseth they flee away, and their place is not known where they are. There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all, that hear the report of thee, shall clap hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?’ *Nahum*, chap. iii. 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797, 1803.

133 proud Invader's] sworded Foeman's 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797: sworded Warrior's 1803.

135-9 Disclaim'd of Heaven ! mad Avarice at thy side 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797.

At coward distance, yet with kindling pride—

Safe 'mid thy herds and cornfields thou hast stood,

And join'd the yell of Famine and of Blood.

All nations curse thee: and with eager wond'ring 4<sup>o</sup>, 1797.

135 O abandon'd 1803.

137-8 Mid thy Corn-fields and Herds thou in plenty hast stood

And join'd the loud yellings of Famine and Blood. 1803.

139 They] and 1797, 1803, S. L. 1817.

Shall hear Destruction, like a vulture, scream !  
 Strange-eyed Destruction ! who with many a dream  
 Of central fires through nether seas up-thundering  
 Soothes her fierce solitude ; yet as she lies  
 By livid fount, or red volcanic stream,  
 If ever to her lidless dragon-eyes,  
 O Albion ! thy predestin'd ruins rise,  
 The fiend-hag on her perilous couch doth leap,  
 Muttering distemper'd triumph in her charm'd sleep.

140

145

IX

Away, my soul, away !  
 In vain, in vain the Birds of warning sing—  
 And hark ! I hear the famish'd brood of prey  
 Flap their lank pennons on the groaning wind !

150

Away, my soul, away !  
 I unpartaking of the evil thing,  
 With daily prayer and daily toil  
 Soliciting for food my scanty soil,  
 Have wail'd my country with a loud Lament.  
 Now I recentre my immortal mind

155

In the deep Sabbath of meek self-content ;  
 Cleans'd from the vaporous passions that bedim  
 God's Image, sister of the Seraphim.<sup>1</sup>

160

1796.

<sup>1</sup> ‘Let it not be forgotten during the perusal of this Ode that it was written many years before the abolition of the Slave Trade by the British Legislature, likewise before the invasion of Switzerland by the French Republic, which occasioned the Ode that follows [*France : an Ode*. First published as *The Recantation : an Ode*], a kind of Palinodia.’ MS. Note by S. T. C.

<sup>142</sup> fires] flames <sup>4o</sup>.

<sup>144</sup> Stretch'd on the marge of some fire-flashing fount  
 In the black Chamber of a sulphur'd mount. <sup>4o</sup>.

<sup>144</sup> By livid fount, or roar of blazing stream 1797. <sup>146</sup> Visions  
 of thy predestin'd ruins rise 1803. <sup>151</sup> famish'd] famin'd <sup>4o</sup>. <sup>156</sup>  
 Soliciting my scant and blameless soil <sup>4o</sup>.

<sup>159-60</sup> In the long sabbath of high self-content.

Cleans'd from the fleshly passions that bedim <sup>4o</sup>.

In the deep sabbath of blest self-content

Cleans'd from the fears and anguish that bedim 1797.

In the blest sabbath of high self-content

Cleans'd from bedimming Fear, and Anguish weak and blind.

1803.

<sup>161</sup> om. 1803.

THE RAVEN<sup>1</sup>

A CHRISTMAS TALE, TOLD BY A SCHOOL-BOY TO HIS  
LITTLE BROTHERS AND SISTERS

UNDERNEATH an old oak tree  
There was of swine a huge company,  
That grunted as they crunch'd the mast:  
For that was ripe, and fell full fast.  
Then they trotted away, for the wind grew high:      5  
One acorn they left, and no more mote you spy.  
Next came a Raven, that liked not such folly:  
He belonged, they did say, to the witch Melancholy!  
Blacker was he than blackest jet,  
Flew low in the rain, and his feathers not wet.      10

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, March 10, 1798 (with an introductory letter, *vide infra*): included (with the letter, and except line 15 the same text) in the *Annual Anthology*, 1800, in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817 (pp. vi-viii), 1828, 1829, and 1834.

[To the editor of the *Morning Post*.]

'Sir,—I am not absolutely certain that the following Poem was written by EDMUND SPENSER, and found by an Angler buried in a fishing-box:—

'Under the foot of Mole, that mountain hoar,  
Mid the green alders, by the Mulla's shore.'

But a learned Antiquarian of my acquaintance has given it as his opinion that it resembles SPENSER'S minor Poems as nearly as Vortigern and Rowena the Tragedies of WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.—The Poem must be read in *recitative*, in the same manner as the *Aegloga Secunda* of the Shepherd's Calendar.

CUDDY.'

*M. P., An. Anth.*

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*The Raven—Title]* 'A Christmas Tale,' &c., was first prefixed in *S. L.* 1817. The letter introduced the poem in the *Morning Post*. In the *Annual Anthology* the 'Letter' is headed 'The Raven'. Lamb in a letter to Coleridge, dated Feb. 5, 1797, alludes to this poem as 'Your Dream'.

1-8      Under the arms of a goodly oak-tree  
There was of Swine a large company.  
They were making a rude *repast*,  
Grunting as they crunch'd the mast.  
Then they trotted away: for the wind blew high—      5  
One acorn they left, ne more mote you spy.  
Next came a Raven, who lik'd not such folly:  
He belong'd, I believe, to the witch MELANCHOLY!

*M. P., An. Anth., and (with variants given below) MS. S. T. C.*

<sup>1</sup> Beneath a goodly old oak tree *MS. S. T. C.*: an old] a huge *S. L.* 1817, 1828, 1829.      6 ne more] and no more *MS. S. T. C.*      7 Next] But soon *MS. S. T. C.*      8 belonged it was said *S. L.* 1817.      10 in the rain; his feathers were wet *M. P., An. Anth., MS. S. T. C.*

He picked up the acorn and buried it straight  
By the side of a river both deep and great.

Where then did the Raven go?

He went high and low,  
Over hill, over dale, did the black Raven go.

15

Many Autumns, many Springs  
Travelled<sup>1</sup> he with wandering wings :  
Many Summers, many Winters—  
I can't tell half his adventures.

At length he came back, and with him a She,  
And the acorn was grown to a tall oak tree.

20

They built them a nest in the topmost bough,  
And young ones they had, and were happy enow.

But soon came a Woodman in leatherne guise,  
His brow, like a pent-house, hung over his eyes.

25

He'd an axe in his hand, not a word he spoke,  
But with many a hem ! and a sturdy stroke,

At length he brought down the poor Raven's own oak.  
His young ones were killed ; for they could not depart,

And their mother did die of a broken heart.

30

The boughs from the trunk the Woodman did sever ;  
And they floated it down on the course of the river.

They sawed it in planks, and its bark they did strip,  
And with this tree and others they made a good ship.

The ship, it was launched ; but in sight of the land  
Such a storm there did rise as no ship could withstand.

35

It bulged on a rock, and the waves rush'd in fast :  
Round and round flew the raven, and cawed to the blast.

<sup>1</sup> Seventeen or eighteen years ago an artist of some celebrity was so pleased with this doggerel that he amused himself with the thought of making a Child's Picture Book of it ; but he could not hit on a picture for these four lines. I suggested a *Round-about* with four seats, and the four seasons, as Children, with Time for the shew-man. Footnote, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817.

15 O'er hill, o'er dale M. P.                    17 with] on MS. S. T. C.                    20  
came back] return'd M. P., *An. Anth.*, MS. S. T. C.                    21 to a tall] a  
large M. P., *An. Anth.*, MS. S. T. C.                    22 topmost] uppermost MS. S. T. C.  
23 happy] jolly M. P., *An. Anth.*                    26 and he nothing spoke M. P., *An.*  
*Anth.*, MS. S. T. C.                    28 At length] *Wel-a-day* MS. S. T. C. : At last  
M. P., *An. Anth.*                    30 And his wife she did die M. P., *An. Anth.*, MS.  
S. T. C.                    31 The branches from off it M. P., *An. Anth.* : The branches from  
off this the MS. S. T. C.                    32 And floated MS. S. T. C.                    33 They saw'd  
it to planks, and its rind M. P., *An. Anth.* : They saw'd it to planks and  
its bark MS. S. T. C.                    34 they built up a ship M. P., *An. Anth.*                    36  
Such . . . ship] A tempest arose which no ship M. P., *An. Anth.*, MS. S. T. C.  
38 The auld raven flew round and round M. P., *An. Anth.* : The old raven  
flew round and round MS. S. T. C., *S. L. 1817, 1828, 1829.*

He heard the last shriek of the perishing souls—  
See! see! o'er the topmast the mad water rolls!

Right glad was the Raven, and off he went fleet,  
And Death riding home on a cloud he did meet,  
And he thank'd him again and again for this treat:

They had taken his all, and REVENGE IT WAS SWEET!  
1797.

### TO AN UNFORTUNATE WOMAN AT THE THEATRE<sup>1</sup>

MAIDEN, that with sullen brow  
Sitt'st behind those virgins gay,  
Like a scorch'd and mildew'd bough,  
Leafless 'mid the blooms of May!

Him who lur'd thee and forsook,  
Oft I watch'd with angry gaze,  
Fearful saw his pleading look,  
Anxious heard his fervid phrase.

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, December 7, 1797: included in the *Annual Anthology*, 1800, in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, 1829, and 1834. For MS. sent to Cottle, see *E. R.* 1834, i. 213, 214.

39 He heard the sea-shriek of their perishing souls *M. P.*, *An. Anth.*, MS. *S. T. C.*

40-4 They be sunk! O'er the topmast the mad water rolls

The Raven was glad that such fate they did meet.

They had taken his all and REVENGE WAS SWEET. *M. P.*, *An. Anth.*

40 See she sinks *MS. S. T. C.* 41 Very glad was the Raven, this fate  
they did meet *MS. S. T. C.* 42-3 *om. MS. S. T. C.* 44 Revenge  
was sweet. *An. Anth.*, *MS. S. T. C.*, *S. L.* 1817, 1828, 1829.

After l. 44, two lines were added in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817:—

We must not think so; but forget and forgive,  
And what Heaven gives life to, we'll still let it live.\*

\* Added thro' cowardly fear of the Goody! What a Hollow, where the Heart of Faith ought to be, does it not betray? this alarm concerning Christian morality, that will not permit even a Raven to be a Raven, nor a Fox a Fox, but demands conveticular justice to be inflicted on their unchristian conduct, or at least an antidote to be annexed. *MS. Note by S.T.C.*

To an Unfortunate Woman at the Theatre—Title] To an Unfortunate Woman in the Back Seats of the Boxes at the Theatre *M. P.*: To an Unfortunate Young Woman whom I had known in the days of her Innocence *MS. sent to Cottle, E. R. i. 213*: To an Unfortunate Woman whom the Author knew in the days of her Innocence. Composed at the Theatre *An. Anth.* 1800.

1 Maiden] Sufferer *An. Anth.*

In place of 5-12 Inly gnawing, thy distresses

Mock those starts of wanton glee;  
And thy inmost soul confesses  
Chaste Affection's [affliction's *An. Anth.*] majesty.  
*MS. Cottle, An. Anth.*

Soft the glances of the Youth,  
 Soft his speech, and soft his sigh ; 10  
 But no sound like simple Truth,  
 But no *true* love in his eye.  
 Loathing thy polluted lot,  
 Hie thee, Maiden, hie thee hence !  
 Seek thy weeping Mother's cot, 15  
 With a wiser innocence.  
 Thou hast known deceit and folly,  
 Thou hast *felt* that Vice is woe :  
 With a musing melancholy  
 Inly arm'd, go, Maiden ! go. 20  
 Mother sage of Self-dominion,  
 Firm thy steps, O Melancholy !  
 The strongest plume in Wisdom's pinion  
 Is the memory of past folly.  
 Mute the sky-lark and forlorn, 25  
 While she moults the firstling plumes,  
 That had skimm'd the tender corn,  
 Or the beanfield's odorous blooms.  
 Soon with renovated wing  
 Shall she dare a loftier flight, 30  
 Upward to the Day-Star spring,  
 And embathe in heavenly light.

1797.

TO AN UNFORTUNATE WOMAN<sup>1</sup>

WHOM THE AUTHOR HAD KNOWN IN THE DAYS  
 OF HER INNOCENCE

MYRTLE-LEAF that, ill besped,  
 Pinest in the gladsome ray,  
 Soil'd beneath the common tread  
 Far from thy protecting spray !

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1797 : included in 1803, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

14 Maiden] Sufferer *An. Anth.* 22 Firm are thy steps *M. P.*  
 25 sky-lark] Lavrac *MS. Cottle, An. Anth.* 26 the] those *MS. Cottle, M. P., An. Anth.* 27 Which late had *M. P.* 31 Upwards to the day star sing *MS. Cottle, An. Anth.*

Stanzas ii, iii, v, vi are not in *MS. Cottle* nor in the *Annual Anthology*.  
*To an Unfortunate Woman whom, &c.—Title]* Allegorical Lines on the Same Subject *MS. Cottle*.

When the Partridge o'er the sheaf  
 Whirr'd along the yellow vale,  
 Sad I saw thee, heedless leaf!  
 Love the dalliance of the gale.

Lightly didst thou, foolish thing!  
 Heave and flutter to his sighs,  
 While the flatterer, on his wing,  
 Woo'd and whisper'd thee to rise.

Gaily from thy mother-stalk  
 Wert thou danc'd and wafted high—  
 Soon on this unshelter'd walk  
 Flung to fade, to rot and die.

1797.

TO THE REV. GEORGE COLERIDGE<sup>1</sup>

OF OTTERY ST. MARY, DEVON

*With some Poems*

Notus in fratres animi paterni.

HOR. Carm. lib. II. 2.

A BLESSED lot hath he, who having passed  
 His youth and early manhood in the stir  
 And turmoil of the world, retreats at length,  
 With cares that move, not agitate the heart,  
 To the same dwelling where his father dwelt;

5

<sup>1</sup> First published as the Dedication to the *Poems* of 1797 : included in 1803, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. In a copy of the *Poems* of 1797, formerly in the possession of the late Mr. Frederick Locker-Lampson, Coleridge affixed the following note to the Dedication—‘N. B. If this volume should ever be delivered according to its direction, i.e. to Posterity, let it be known that the Reverend George Coleridge was displeased and thought his character endangered by the Dedication.’—S. T. Coleridge. *Note to P. and D. W.*, 1877–80, i. 163.

5 When the scythes-man o'er his sheaf  
 Caroll'd in the yellow vale *MS. Cottle.*  
 When the rustic o'er his sheaf  
 Caroll'd in, &c. 1797.

[Note. The text of Stanza ii dates from 1803.]  
 9 foolish] poor fond *MS. Cottle.* 15 Soon upon this sheltered walk,  
*MS. Cottle, Second Version.* 16 to fade, and rot, *MS. Cottle.*

To the Rev. George Coleridge—Motto] lib. i. 2 S. L. 1817, 1828, 1829, 1834.

And haply views his tottering little ones  
 Embrace those agéd knees and climb that lap,  
 On which first kneeling his own infancy  
 Lisp'd its brief prayer. Such, O my earliest Friend !  
 Thy lot, and such thy brothers too enjoy.      10  
 At distance did ye climb Life's upland road,  
 Yet cheer'd and cheering: now fraternal love  
 Hath drawn you to one centre. Be your days  
 Holy, and blest and blessing may ye live !

To me the Eternal Wisdom hath dispense'd  
 A different fortune and more different mind—  
 Me from the spot where first I sprang to light  
 Too soon transplanted, ere my soul had fix'd  
 Its first domestic loves; and hence through life  
 Chasing chance-started friendships. A brief while      20  
 Some have preserv'd me from life's pelting ills;  
 But, like a tree with leaves of feeble stem,  
 If the clouds lasted, and a sudden breeze  
 Ruffled the boughs, they on my head at once  
 Dropped the collected shower; and some most false,      25  
 False and fair-foliag'd as the Manchineel,  
 Have tempted me to slumber in their shade  
 E'en mid the storm; then breathing subtlest damps,  
 Mix'd their own venom with the rain from Heaven,  
 That I woke poison'd! But, all praise to Him      30  
 Who gives us all things, more have yielded me  
 Permanent shelter; and beside one Friend,  
 Beneath the impervious covert of one oak,  
 I've rais'd a lowly shed, and know the names  
 Of Husband and of Father; not unhearing      35  
 Of that divine and nightly-whispering Voice,  
 Which from my childhood to maturer years  
 Spake to me of predestinated wreaths,  
 Bright with no fading colours!

Yet at times  
 My soul is sad, that I have roam'd through life      40  
 Still most a stranger, most with naked heart

10 Thine and thy Brothers' favourable lot. 1803.      23 and] or 1797,  
 1803.      30 That I woke prison'd! But (the praise be His 1803.  
 33-4      I as beneath the covert of an oak  
               Have rais'd 1803.  
 35 not] nor 1797, 1803, S. L. 1817, 1828, 1829.

At mine own home and birth-place : chiefly then,  
When I remember thee, my earliest Friend !  
Thee, who didst watch my boyhood and my youth ;  
Didst trace my wanderings with a father's eye ; 45  
And boding evil yet still hoping good,  
Rebuk'd each fault, and over all my woes  
Sorrow'd in silence ! He who counts alone  
The beatings of the solitary heart,  
That Being knows, how I have lov'd thee ever, 50  
Lov'd as a brother, as a son rever'd thee !  
Oh ! 'tis to me an ever new delight,  
To talk of thee and thine : or when the blast  
Of the shrill winter, rattling our rude sash,  
Endears the cleanly hearth and social bowl ; 55  
Or when, as now, on some delicious eve,  
We in our sweet sequester'd orchard-plot  
Sit on the tree crook'd earth-ward ; whose old boughs,  
That hang above us in an arborous roof,  
Stirr'd by the faint gale of departing May, 60  
Send their loose blossoms slanting o'er our heads !

Nor dost not thou sometimes recall those hours,  
When with the joy of hope thou gavest thine ear  
To my wild firstling-lays. Since then my song  
Hath sounded deeper notes, such as beseem 65  
Or that sad wisdom folly leaves behind,  
Or such as, tuned to these tumultuous times,  
Cope with the tempest's swell !

These various strains,  
Which I have fram'd in many a various mood,  
Accept, my Brother ! and (for some perchance  
Will strike discordant on thy milder mind) 70  
If aught of error or intemperate truth  
Should meet thine ear, think thou that riper Age  
Will calm it down, and let thy love forgive it !

NETHER-STOWEY, SOMERSET, May 26, 1797.

47-9 Rebuk'd each fault, and wept o'er all my woes.

Who counts the beatings of the lonely heart 1797, 1803.

*Between 52-3 My eager eye glist'ning with memry's tear 1797. 62  
thou] thou all editions to 1834. Between 66-7 Or the high raptures of  
prophetic Faith 1797, 1803. 68 strains] songs 1797, 1803.*

ON THE CHRISTENING OF A FRIEND'S CHILD<sup>1</sup>

THIS day among the faithful plac'd  
 And fed with fonsal manna,  
 O with maternal title grac'd,  
 Dear Anna's dearest Anna !

While others wish thee wise and fair,      5  
 A maid of spotless fame,  
 I'll breathe this more compendious prayer—  
 May'st thou deserve thy name !

Thy mother's name, a potent spell,  
 That bids the Virtues hie      10  
 From mystic grove and living cell,  
 Confess'd to Fancy's eye ;

Meek Quietness without offence ;  
 Content in homespun kirtle ;  
 True Love ; and True Love's Innocence,      15  
 White Blossom of the Myrtle !

Associates of thy name, sweet Child !  
 These Virtues may'st thou win ;  
 With face as eloquently mild  
 To say, they lodge within.      20

So, when her tale of days all flown,  
 Thy mother shall be miss'd here ;  
 When Heaven at length shall claim its own  
 And Angels snatch their Sister ;

Some hoary-headed friend, perchance,      25  
 May gaze with stifled breath ;  
 And oft, in momentary trance,  
 Forget the waste of death.

Even thus a lovely rose I've view'd  
 In summer-swelling pride ;  
 Nor mark'd the bud, that green and rude  
 Peep'd at the rose's side.      30

<sup>1</sup> First published in the Supplement to *Poems*, 1797 : reprinted in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 48, 49 : included in 1844 and 1852. The lines were addressed to Anna Cruickshank, the wife of John Cruickshank, who was a neighbour of Coleridge at Nether-Stowey.

It chanc'd I pass'd again that way  
 In Autumn's latest hour,  
 And wond'ring saw the selfsame spray      35  
 Rich with the selfsame flower.

Ah fond deceit! the rude green bud  
 Alike in shape, place, name,  
 Had bloom'd where bloom'd its parent stud,  
 Another and the same!      40

1797.

TRANSLATION<sup>1</sup>

OF A LATIN INSCRIPTION BY THE REV. W. L. BOWLES IN  
 NETHER-STOWEY CHURCH

DEPART in joy from this world's noise and strife  
 To the deep quiet of celestial life!  
 Depart!—Affection's self reproves the tear  
 Which falls, O honour'd Parent! on thy bier;—  
 Yet Nature will be heard, the heart will swell,      5  
 And the voice tremble with a last Farewell!

1797.

[*The Tablet is erected to the Memory of Richard Camplin, who died Jan. 20, 1792.*

'Lætus abi! mundi strepitū curisque remotus;  
 Lætus abi! cæli quâ vocat alma Quies.  
 Ipsa fides loquitur lacrymamque incusat inanem,  
 Quæ cadit in vestros, care Pater, Cineres.  
 Heu! tantum liceat meritos hos solvere Ritus,      5  
 Naturæ et tremulâ dicere Voce, Vale!']

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 50. First collected in *P. and D. W.*, 1877, ii. 365.

6 Et longum tremulâ L. R. 1836.

THIS LIME-TREE BOWER MY PRISON<sup>1</sup>

[ADDRESSED TO CHARLES LAMB, OF THE  
INDIA HOUSE, LONDON]

In the June of 1797 some long-expected friends paid a visit to the author's cottage ; and on the morning of their arrival, he met with an accident, which disabled him from walking during the whole time of their stay. One evening, when they had left him for a few hours, he composed the following lines in the garden-bower.<sup>2</sup>

WELL, they are gone, and here must I remain,  
This lime-tree bower my prison ! I have lost  
Beauties and feelings, such as would have been

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Annual Anthology*, 1800, reprinted in Mylius' *Poetical Classbook*, 1810 : included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, in 1828, 1829, and 1834. The poem was sent in a letter to Southey, July 9, 1797, and in a letter to C. Lloyd, [July, 1797]. See *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 225-7 and *P. W.*, 1893, p. 591.

<sup>2</sup> 'Ch. and Mary Lamb—dear to my heart, yea, as it were my Heart.—S. T. C. Æt. 63; 1834—1797—1834 = 37 years!' (Marginal note written by S. T. Coleridge over against the introductory note to 'This Lime-Tree Bower my Prison', in a copy of the *Poetical Works*, 1834.)

*This Lime-Tree, &c.—Title] This Lime-Tree Bower my Prison. A Poem Addressed, &c. An. Anth. : the words 'Addressed to', &c., are omitted in Sibylline Leaves, 1828, 1829, and 1834.*

1-28 Well, they are gone, and here must I remain,  
Lam'd by the scathe of fire, lonely and faint,  
This lime-tree bower my prison ! They, meantime,  
My Friends, whom I may never meet again,  
On springy heath, along the hill-top edge 5  
Wander delighted, and look down, perchance,  
On that same rifted dell, where many an ash  
Twists its wild limbs beside the ferny rock  
Whose plumy\* ferns forever nod and drip  
Spray'd by the waterfall. But chiefly thou 10  
My gentle-hearted Charles! thou who had pin'd

*MS. Letter to Southey, July 17, 1797.*

\* The ferns that grow in moist places grow five or six together, and form a complete 'Prince of Wales's Feather'—that is plumy. *Letter to Southey.*

1-28 Well they are gone, and here I must remain  
This lime-tree, . . . hill-top edge  
Delighted wander, and look down, perchance,  
On that same rifted dell, where the wet ash  
Twists its wild limbs above, . . . who hast pin'd

*MS. Letter to Lloyd [July, 1797].*

3 Such beauties and such feelings, as had been *An. Anth.*, *S. L.*

Most sweet to my remembrance even when age  
 Had dimm'd mine eyes to blindness! They, meanwhile, 5  
 Friends, whom I never more may meet again,  
 On springy<sup>1</sup> heath, along the hill-top edge,  
 Wander in gladness, and wind down, perchance,  
 To that still roaring dell, of which I told;  
 The roaring dell, o'erwooded, narrow, deep, 10  
 And only speckled by the mid-day sun;  
 Where its slim trunk the ash from rock to rock  
 Flings arching like a bridge;—that branchless ash,  
 Unsunn'd and damp, whose few poor yellow leaves  
 Ne'er tremble in the gale, yet tremble still, 15  
 Fann'd by the water-fall! and there my friends  
 Behold the dark green file of long lank weeds,<sup>2</sup>  
 That all at once (a most fantastic sight!)  
 Still nod and drip beneath the dripping edge  
 Of the blue clay-stone.

Now, my friends emerge 20  
 Beneath the wide wide Heaven—and view again  
 The many-steeped tract magnificent  
 Of hilly fields and meadows, and the sea,  
 With some fair bark, perhaps, whose sails light up  
 The slip of smooth clear blue betwixt two Isles 25  
 Of purple shadow! Yes! they wander on  
 In gladness all; but thou, methinks, most glad,  
 My gentle-hearted Charles! for thou hast pined  
 And hunger'd after Nature, many a year,  
 In the great City pent, winning thy way 30  
 With sad yet patient soul, through evil and pain  
 And strange calamity! Ah! slowly sink  
 Behind the western ridge, thou glorious Sun!  
 Shine in the slant beams of the sinking orb,

<sup>1</sup> ‘Elastic, I mean.’ MS. *Letter to Southey*.

<sup>2</sup> The *Asplenium Scolopendrium*, called in some countries the Adder’s Tongue, in others the Hart’s Tongue, but Withering gives the Adder’s Tongue as the trivial name of the *Ophioglossum* only.

4 my remembrance] to have remembered *An. Anth.* 6 My Friends,  
 whom I may never meet again *An. Anth.*, S. L. 20 blue] dim *An. Anth.*  
 22 tract] track *An. Anth.*, S. L. 1828. 24 bark, perhaps, which lightly  
 touches *An. Anth.* 28 hast] had’st *An. Anth.* 31 patient] bowed  
 MS. *Letter to Southey*. 34 beams] heaven MS. *Letter to Southey*.

Ye purple heath-flowers! richlier burn, ye clouds!  
 Live in the yellow light, ye distant groves!  
 And kindle, thou blue Ocean! So my friend  
 Struck with deep joy may stand, as I have stood,  
 Silent with swimming sense; yea, gazing round  
 On the wide landscape, gaze till all doth seem  
 Less gross than bodily; and of such hues  
 As veil the Almighty Spirit, when yet he makes  
 Spirits perceive his presence.

35

40

A delight  
 Comes sudden on my heart, and I am glad  
 As I myself were there! Nor in this bower,  
 This little lime-tree bower, have I not mark'd  
 Much that has sooth'd me. Pale beneath the blaze  
 Hung the transparent foliage; and I watch'd  
 Some broad and sunny leaf, and lov'd to see  
 The shadow of the leaf and stem above  
 Dappling its sunshine! And that walnut-tree  
 Was richly ting'd, and a deep radiance lay  
 Full on the ancient ivy, which usurps  
 Those fronting elms, and now, with blackest mass

45

50

38 foll. Struck with joy's deepest calm, and gazing round  
 On the wide view\* may gaze till all doth seem  
 Less gross than bodily; a living thing  
 That acts upon the mind, and with such hues  
 As clothe th' Almighty Spirit, when he makes.

*MS. Letter to Southey.*

\* You remember I am a Berkleyan. Note to Letter.

40 wide] wild S. L.

40 (for *wild* r. *wide*; and the two following lines thus:

Less gross than bodily; and of such hues  
 As veil the Almighty Spirit *Errata*, S. L., p. [xii].)  
 As veil the Almighty Spirit, when he makes 1828.

41 foll. Less gross than bodily, a living thing  
 Which acts upon the mind and with such hues  
 As cloathe the Almighty Spirit, when he makes

*An. Anth., S. L.*

45 foll. As I myself were there! Nor in the bower  
 Want I sweet sounds or pleasing shapes. I watch'd  
 The sunshine of each broad transparent leaf  
 Broke by the shadows of the leaf or stem  
 Which hung above it: and that walnut tree

*MS. Letter to Southey.*

Makes their dark branches gleam a lighter hue 55  
 Through the late twilight: and though now the bat  
 Wheels silent by, and not a swallow twitters,  
 Yet still the solitary humble-bee  
 Sings in the bean-flower! Henceforth I shall know  
 That Nature ne'er deserts the wise and pure; 60  
 No plot so narrow, be but Nature there,  
 No waste so vacant, but may well employ  
 Each faculty of sense, and keep the heart  
 Awake to Love and Beauty! and sometimes  
 'Tis well to be bereft of promis'd good, 65  
 That we may lift the soul, and contemplate  
 With lively joy the joys we cannot share.  
 My gentle-hearted Charles! when the last rook  
 Beat its straight path along the dusky air  
 Homewards, I blest it! deeming its black wing 70  
 (Now a dim speck, now vanishing in light)  
 Had cross'd the mighty Orb's dilated glory,  
 While thou stood'st gazing; or, when all was still,  
 Flew creaking o'er thy head, and had a charm<sup>1</sup>  
 For thee, my gentle-hearted Charles, to whom 75  
 No sound is dissonant which tells of Life.

1797.

<sup>1</sup> Some months after I had written this line, it gave me pleasure to find [to observe *An. Anth., S. L. 1828*] that Bartram had observed the same circumstance of the Savanna Crane. 'When these Birds move their wings in flight, their strokes are slow, moderate and regular; and even when at a considerable distance or high above us, we plainly hear the quill-feathers: their shafts and webs upon one another creek as the joints or working of a vessel in a tempestuous sea.'

55 branches] foliage MS. Letter to Southey. 56 and though the rapid bat MS. Letter to Southey. 60-64 om. in MS. Letter to Lloyd. 61-2 No scene so narrow but may well employ MS. Letter to Southey, *An. Anth.* 68 My Sister and my Friends MS. Letter to Southey: My Sara and my Friends MS. Letter to Lloyd. 70 Homewards] Homeward MS. Letter to Lloyd. 71 om. in MS. Letter to Lloyd. in the light *An. Anth., S. L.* (omit the before light. *Errata, S. L., [p. xii]*). 72 Cross'd like a speck the blaze of setting day MS. Letter to Southey: Had cross'd the mighty orb's dilated blase. MS. Letter to Lloyd. 73 While ye [you MS. Letter to Lloyd] stood MS. Letter to Southey. 74 thy head] your heads MSS. Letters to Southey and Lloyd. 75 For you my Sister and my Friends MS. Letter to Southey: For you my Sara and my Friends MS. Letter to Lloyd.

THE FOSTER-MOTHER'S TALE<sup>1</sup>

## A DRAMATIC FRAGMENT

[From *Osorio*, Act IV. The title and text are here printed from *Lyrical Ballads*, 1798.]

*Foster-Mother.* I never saw the man whom you describe.

*Maria.* 'Tis strange! he spake of you familiarly  
As mine and Albert's common Foster-mother.

*Foster-Mother.* Now blessings on the man, whoe'er he be,  
That joined your names with mine! O my sweet lady, 5  
As often as I think of those dear times  
When you two little ones would stand at eve  
On each side of my chair, and make me learn  
All you had learnt in the day; and how to talk  
In gentle phrase, then bid me sing to you— 10  
'Tis more like heaven to come than what *has* been!

*Maria.* O my dear Mother! this strange man has left me  
Troubled with wilder fancies, than the moon

<sup>1</sup> First published in the first edition of the *Lyrical Ballads*, 1798, and reprinted in the editions of 1800, 1803, and 1805. The 'dramatic fragment' was excluded from the acting version of *Remorse*, but was printed in an Appendix, p. 75, to the Second Edition of the Play, 1813. It is included in the body of the work in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, and again in 1852, and in the Appendix to *Remorse* in the editions of 1828, 1829, and 1834. It is omitted from 1844. 'The "Foster-Mother's Tale," (From Mr. C.'s own handwriting)' was published in Cottle's *Early Recollections*, i. 235.

'The following scene as unfit for the stage was taken from the Tragedy in 1797, and published in the *Lyrical Ballads*. But this work having been long out of print, and it having been determined, that this with my other poems in that collection (the *Nightingale*, *Love*, and the *Ancient Mariner*) should be omitted in any future edition, I have been advised to reprint it as a Note to the Second Scene of Act the Fourth, p. 55.' App. to *Remorse*, Ed. 2, 1813. [This note is reprinted in 1828 and 1829, but in 1834 only the first sentence is prefixed to the scene.]

*The Foster-Mother's Tale—Title]* Foster-Mother's Tale. (Scene—Spain) Cottle, 1837: The, &c. A Narration in Dramatic Blank Verse L. B. 1800. In *Remorse*, App., 1813 and in 1828, 1829, 1834, the *dramatis personae* are respectively Teresa and Selma. The fragment opens thus:—Enter Teresa and Selma.

*Ter.* 'Tis said, he spake of you familiarly  
As mine and Alvar's common foster-mother.

In Cottle's version, the scene begins at line 4.

<sup>1</sup> man] Moor *Osorio*, MS. I. 12-16 O my dear Mother . . . She gazes idly! om. 1813, 1828, 1829, 1834. 12 me] us Cottle, 1837. 13 the] yon *Osorio*, MS. I.

Breeds in the love-sick maid who gazes at it,  
Till lost in inward vision, with wet eye  
She gazes idly!—But that entrance, Mother!

15

*Foster-Mother.* Can no one hear? It is a perilous tale!  
*Maria.* No one.

*Foster-Mother.* My husband's father told it me,  
Poor old Leoni!—Angels rest his soul!

20

He was a woodman, and could fell and saw  
With lusty arm. You know that huge round beam  
Which props the hanging wall of the old Chapel?  
Beneath that tree, while yet it was a tree,

25

He found a baby wrapt in mosses, lined  
With thistle-beards, and such small locks of wool  
As hang on brambles. Well, he brought him home,  
And rear'd him at the then Lord Velez' cost.

30

And so the babe grew up a pretty boy,  
A pretty boy, but most unteachable—

And never learnt a prayer, nor told a bead,  
But knew the names of birds, and mock'd their notes,  
And whistled, as he were a bird himself:

35

And all the autumn 'twas his only play  
To get the seeds of wild flowers, and to plant them  
With earth and water, on the stumps of trees.

40

A Friar, who gather'd simples in the wood,  
A grey-haired man—he lov'd this little boy,  
The boy lov'd him—and, when the Friar taught him,  
He soon could write with the pen: and from that time,  
Lived chiefly at the Convent or the Castle.

So he became a very learnéd youth.

But Oh! poor wretch!—he read, and read, and read,  
Till his brain turn'd—and ere his twentieth year,  
He had unlawful thoughts of many things:

And though he prayed, he never lov'd to pray  
With holy men, nor in a holy place—

45

But yet his speech, it was so soft and sweet,  
The late Lord Velez ne'er was wearied with him.

16 In *Lyrical Ballads*, 1800, the scene begins with the words: 'But that entrance'. But that entrance, Selma? 1813. 19 Leoni] Sesina 1813, 1828, 1829, 1834.

27 Velez'] Valdez' 1813, 1828, 1829, 1834: Valez' S. L. 1817. 34 To gather seeds 1813, S. L. 1817, 1828, 1829, 1834. 36 gather'd] oft culled S. L. 1817.

41 So he became a rare and learned youth 1813, 1828, 1829, 1834.

41-2 So he became a very learned man.

But O poor youth Cottle, 1837.

48 Velez] Valdez 1813, 1828, 1829, 1834: Valez S. L. 1817.

And once, as by the north side of the Chapel  
They stood together, chain'd in deep discourse,  
The earth heav'd under them with such a groan,  
That the wall totter'd, and had well-nigh fallen  
Right on their heads. My Lord was sorely frighten'd ;  
A fever seiz'd him, and he made confession

Which brought this judgment: so the youth was seiz'd

And cast into that hole. My husband's father  
Sebb'd like a child—it almost broke his heart:

And once as he was working in the cellar,  
He heard a voice distinctly, "Yours the youth—

He heard a voice distinctly; 'twas the youth's,  
Who sung a doleful song about green fields,

How sweet it were on lake or wild savannah,  
To hunt for food, and be a naked man,

And wander up and down at liberty.  
He always doted on the youth, and now

His love grew desperate ; and defying death,  
He made that cunning entrance I describ'd :

And the young man escap'd.  
*Maria.* 'Tis a sweet tale:

Such as would lull a listening child to sleep,  
His rosy face besoil'd with unwiped tears.—

*Foster Mother*                    He went on shipboard.

With those bold voyagers, who made discovery  
Of golden lands. Leoni's younger brother  
Went likewise, and when he return'd to Spain,  
He told Leoni, that the poor mad youth,  
Soon after they arriv'd in that new world,  
In spite of his dissuasion, seiz'd a boat,  
And all alone, set sail by silent moonlight  
Up a great river, great as any sea,  
And ne'er was heard of more: but 'tis suppos'd,  
He liv'd and died among the savage men.

1797

A fever seiz'd the youth and he made  
57 hole] cell L. B. 1800; den 1813.

[And fetter'd in that den. MS. S. T. C.] 59 in the cellar]  
near this dungeon 1813, 1828, 1829, 1834.  
62 wild] wide 1813.

1828, 1829, 1834.      65 He always] Leoni L. B. 1800.      68-9 om. L. B.  
1800      72 Leoni's] Sesina's 1813 1823 1829 1834      younger youngest

S. L. 1817. 75 Leoni] Sesina 1813, 1828, 1829, 1834.

THE DUNGEON<sup>1</sup>

[From *Osorio*, Act V; and *Remorse*, Act V, Scene i. The title and text are here printed from *Lyrical Ballads*, 1798.]

AND this place our forefathers made for man !  
 This is the process of our love and wisdom,  
 To each poor brother who offends against us—  
 Most innocent, perhaps—and what if guilty?  
 Is this the only cure ? Merciful God !       5  
 Each pore and natural outlet shrivell'd up  
 By Ignorance and parching Poverty,  
 His energies roll back upon his heart,  
 And stagnate and corrupt ; till chang'd to poison,  
 They break out on him, like a loathsome plague-spot ;     10  
 Then we call in our pamper'd mountebanks—  
 And this is their best cure ! uncomforde  
 And friendless solitude, groaning and tears,  
 And savage faces, at the clanking hour,  
 Seen through the steams and vapour of his dungeon,     15  
 By the lamp's dismal twilight ! So he lies  
 Circled with evil, till his very soul  
 Unmoulds its essence, hopelessly deform'd  
 By sights of ever more deformity !

With other ministrations thou, O Nature !       20  
 Healest thy wandering and distemper'd child :  
 Thou pourest on him thy soft influences,  
 Thy sunny hues, fair forms, and breathing sweets,  
 Thy melodies of woods, and winds, and waters,  
 Till he relent, and can no more endure       25  
 To be a jarring and a dissonant thing,  
 Amid this general dance and minstrelsy ;  
 But, bursting into tears, wins back his way,  
 His angry spirit heal'd and harmoniz'd  
 By the benignant touch of Love and Beauty.     30

1797.

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Lyrical Ballads*, 1798, and reprinted in the *Lyrical Ballads*, 1800. First collected (as a separate poem) in *Poems*, 1893, p. 85.

ix our] my *Osorio*, Act V, i. 107. 1818, 1828, 1829, 1834. man] men *Osorio*.     15 steams and vapour] steaming vapours *Osorio*, V, i. 121 : steam and vapours 1818, 1828, 1829, 1834.

THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER<sup>1</sup>  
IN SEVEN PARTS

Facile credo, plures esse Naturas invisibles quam visibles in rerum universitate. Sed horum omnium familiam quis nobis enarrabit? et gradus et cognationes et discrimina et singulorum munera? Quid agunt? quae loca habitant? Harum rerum notitiam semper ambivit ingenium humanum, nunquam attigit. Juvat, interea, non diffiteor, quandoque in animo, tanquam in tabulâ, majoris et melioris mundi imaginem contemplari: ne mens assuefacta hodiernae vitae minutis se contrahat nimis, et tota subsidat in pusillas cogitationes. Sed veritati interea invigilandum est, modusque servandus, ut certa ab incertis, diem a nocte, distinguamus.—T. BURNER, *Archaeol. Phil.* p. 68.<sup>2</sup>

## ARGUMENT

How a Ship having passed the Line was driven by storms to the cold Country towards the South Pole; and how from thence she made her course to the tropical Latitude of the Great Pacific Ocean; and of the strange things that befell; and in what manner the Ancyent Marinere came back to his own Country. [L. B. 1798.]<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The *Ancient Mariner* was first published in the *Lyrical Ballads*, 1798. It was reprinted in the succeeding editions of 1800, 1802, and 1805. It was first published under the Author's name in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, and included in 1828, 1829, and 1834. For the full text of the poem as published in 1798, vide Appendices. The marginal glosses were added in 1815–1816, when a collected edition of Coleridge's poems was being prepared for the press, and were first published in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, but it is possible that they were the work of a much earlier period. The text of the *Ancient Mariner* as reprinted in *Lyrical Ballads*, 1802, 1805 follows that of 1800.

<sup>2</sup> The text of the original passage is as follows: ‘Facilè credo, plures esse naturas invisibles quam visibles, in rerum universitate: pluresque Angelorum ordines in cælo, quam sunt pisces in mari: Sed horum omnium familiam quis nobis enarrabit? Et gradus, et cognationes, et discrimina, et singulorum munera? Harum rerum notitiam semper ambivit ingenium humanum, nunquam attigit ... Juvat utique non etc.: *Archæologiae Philosophicae sive Doctrina Antiqua De Rerum Originibus*. Libri Duo: Londini, MDCXCII, p. 68.’

<sup>3</sup> How a Ship, having first sailed to the Equator, was driven by Storms to the cold Country towards the South Pole; how the Ancient Mariner cruelly and in contempt of the laws of hospitality killed a Seabird and how he was followed by many and strange Judgements: and in what manner he came back to his own Country. [L. B. 1800.]

*The Rime, &c.—Title]* The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere. In Seven Parts L.B. 1798: The Ancient Mariner. A Poet's Reverie L.B. 1800, 1802, 1805.

[Note.—The ‘Argument’ was omitted in L. B. 1802, 1805, *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, and in 1828, 1829, and 1834.]

## PART I

An ancient  
Mariner meet-  
eth three Gal-  
lants bidden  
to a wedding-  
feast, and de-  
taineth one.

It is an ancient Mariner,  
And he stoppeth one of three.  
'By thy long grey beard and glittering eye,  
Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?

The Bridegroom's doors are opened wide, 5  
And I am next of kin;  
The guests are met, the feast is set:  
May'st hear the merry din.'

He holds him with his skinny hand,  
'There was a ship,' quoth he. 10  
'Hold off! unhand me, grey-beard loon!'  
Eftsoons his hand dropt he.

He holds him with his glittering eye—  
The Wedding-Guest stood still,  
And listens like a three years' child: 15  
The Mariner hath his will.

The Wedding-Guest sat on a stone:  
He cannot choose but hear;  
And thus spake on that ancient man,  
The bright-eyed Mariner. 20

'The ship was cheered, the harbour cleared,  
Merrily did we drop  
Below the kirk, below the hill,  
Below the lighthouse top.

The Sun came up upon the left, 25  
Out of the sea came he!  
And he shone bright, and on the right  
Went down into the sea.

The Mariner  
tells how the  
ship sailed  
southward  
with a good  
wind and fair  
weather, till it  
reached the  
line.

PART I] I L. B. 1798, 1800. The Rime of the Ancient Mariner. In Seven Parts. S. L., 1828, 1829. 1 It is an aneyent Marinere L. B. 1798 [ancient is spelled 'aneyent' and Mariner 'Marinere' throughout L.B. 1798]. 3 thy glittering eye L. B. 1798, 1800. 4 stopp'st thou] stoppest L. B. 1798, 1800.

*Between 8 and 13*

But still he holds the wedding guest—  
There was a Ship, quoth he—  
'Nay, if thou'st got a laughsome tale,  
'Marinere, [Mariner! 1800] come with me.'

He holds him with his skinny hand—  
Quoth he, there was a Ship—  
Now get thee hence thou greybeard Loon!  
Or my Staff shall make thee skip. L. B. 1798, 1800.

Higher and higher every day,  
Till over the mast at noon—  
The Wedding-Guest here beat his breast,  
For he heard the loud bassoon.

30

The Wedding-Guest heareth  
the bridal  
music; but  
the Mariner  
continueth  
his tale.

The bride hath paced into the hall,  
Red as a rose is she;  
Nodding their heads before her goes  
The merry minstrelsy.

35

The Wedding-Guest he beat his breast,  
Yet he cannot choose but hear;  
And thus spake on that ancient man,  
The bright-eyed Mariner.

40

The ship  
driven by a  
storm toward  
the south pole.

‘And now the STORM-BLAST came, and he  
Was tyrannous and strong:  
He struck with his o’ertaking wings,  
And chased us south along.

With sloping masts and dipping prow, . . . . .  
As who pursued with yell and blow  
Still treads the shadow of his foe,  
And forward bends his head,  
The ship drove fast, loud roared the blast,  
And southward aye we fled.

45

50

And now there came both mist and snow,  
And it grew wondrous cold:  
And ice, mast-high, came floating by,  
As green as emerald.

*Between 40 and 55*

Listen, Stranger! Storm and Wind,  
A Wind and Tempest strong!  
For days and weeks it play’d us freaks—  
Like chaff we drove along.

Listen Stranger! Mist and Snow,  
And it grew wondrous cauld;  
And Ice mast-high came floating by  
As green as Emerald. *L. B. 1798.*

*Between 40 and 51*

But now the Northwind came more fierce,  
There came a Tempest strong!  
And Southward still for days and weeks  
Like Chaff we drove along. *L. B. 1800.*

Lines 41–50 of the text were added in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817. [Note. The emendation in the marginal gloss, ‘driven’ for ‘drawn’ first appears in 1893.]

The land of  
ice, and of  
fearful sounds  
where no  
living thing  
was to be seen.

And through the drifts the snowy clifts  
Did send a dismal sheen : 55  
Nor shapes of men nor beasts we ken—  
The ice was all between.

Till a great  
sea-bird,  
called the  
Albatross,  
came through  
the snow-fog,  
and was  
received with  
great joy and  
hospitality.

The ice was here, the ice was there,  
The ice was all around : 60  
It cracked and growled, and roared and howled,  
Like noises in a swound !

And lo ! the  
Albatross  
provesth a bird  
of good omen,  
and followeth  
the ship as it  
returned  
northward  
through fog  
and floating  
ice.

At length did cross an Albatross,  
Thorough the fog it came ;  
As if it had been a Christian soul, 65  
We hailed it in God's name.

It ate the food it ne'er had eat,  
And round and round it flew.  
The ice did split with a thunder-fit ;  
The helmsman steered us through ! 70

The ancient  
Mariner  
inhospitably  
killeth the  
pious bird of  
good omen.

And a good south wind sprung up behind ;  
The Albatross did follow,  
And every day, for food or play,  
Came to the mariner's hollo !

In mist or cloud, on mast or shroud, 75  
It perched for vespers nine ;  
Whiles all the night, through fog-smoke white,  
Glimmered the white Moon-shine.'

'God save thee, ancient Mariner !  
From the fiends, that plague thee thus !— 80  
Why look'st thou so ?'—With my cross-bow  
I shot the ALBATROSS.

## PART II

The Sun now rose upon the right :  
Out of the sea came he,  
Still hid in mist, and on the left 85  
Went down into the sea.

55 clift S. L. [probably a misprint. It is not corrected in the *Errata.*] 57 Nor . . . nor] Ne . . . ne L. B. 1798. 62 Like noises of a swound L. B. 1798 : A wild and ceaseless sound L. B. 1800. 65 And an it were L. B. 1798 : As if MS. Corr. S. T. C. 67 The Mariners gave it biscuit-worms L. B. 1798, 1800. 77 fog-smoke white] fog smoke-white L. B. 1798 (corr. in *Errata*). PART II] II L. B. 1798, 1800 : The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Part the Second, S. L. 1828, 1829. 83 The Sun came up L. B. 1798. 85 And broad as a weft upon the left L. B. 1798.

And the good south wind still blew behind,  
But no sweet bird did follow,  
Nor any day for food or play  
Came to the mariners' hollo !

90

His shipmates  
cry out against  
the ancient  
Mariner, for  
killing the  
bird of good  
luck.

And I had done a hellish thing,  
And it would work 'em woe :  
For all averred, I had killed the bird  
That made the breeze to blow.  
Ah wretch ! said they, the bird to slay,      95  
That made the breeze to blow !

But when the  
fog cleared  
off, they  
justify the  
same, and  
thus make  
themselves  
accomplices  
in the crime.

Nor dim nor red, like God's own head,  
The glorious Sun uprise :  
Then all averred, I had killed the bird  
That brought the fog and mist.      100  
'Twas right, said they, such birds to slay,  
That bring the fog and mist.

The fair breeze  
continues ;  
the ship enters  
the Pacific  
Ocean, and  
sails north-  
ward, even  
till it reaches  
the Line.  
The ship hath  
been suddenly  
becalmed.

The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew,  
The furrow followed free ;  
We were the first that ever burst      105  
Into that silent sea.

Down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt down,  
'Twas sad as sad could be ;  
And we did speak only to break  
The silence of the sea !      110

All in a hot and copper sky,  
The bloody Sun, at noon,  
Right up above the mast did stand,  
No bigger than the Moon.

Day after day, day after day,      115  
We stuck, nor breath nor motion ;

89 Nor] Ne *L. B.* 1798.      90 mariners'] Marinere's *L. B.* 1798, 1800,  
*S. L.* 1817 : Mariner's *L. B.* 1800.      91 a] an all editions to 1834.      95-6 om.  
*L. B.* 1798, 1800 : were added in *Sibylline Leaves*.      97 Nor . . . nor] ne . . . ne  
*L. B.* 1798.      like an Angel's head *L. B.* 1800.      103 The breezes blew  
*L. B.* 1798, 1800.      104 \* The furrow stream'd off free *S. L.* 1817.      116  
nor . . . nor] ne . . . ne *L. B.* 1798.

\* In the former editions the line was,

The furrow follow'd free :

But I had not been long on board a ship, before I perceived that this  
was the image as seen by a spectator from the shore, or from another  
vessel. From the ship itself, the *Wake* appears like a brook flowing off  
from the stern. Note to *S. L.* 1817.

As idle as a painted ship  
Upon a painted ocean.

And the Albatross begins to  
be avenged.

Water, water, every where,  
And all the boards did shrink;  
Water, water, every where,  
Nor any drop to drink.

120

The very deep did rot: O Christ!

That ever this should be!

Yea, slimy things did crawl with legs  
Upon the slimy sea.

125

About, about, in reel and rout  
The death-fires danced at night;  
The water, like a witch's oils,  
Burnt green, and blue and white.

130

A Spirit had followed them ; one of the invisible inhabitants of this planet, neither departed souls

departed souls nor angels; concerning whom the learned Jew, Josephus, and the Platonic Constantinopolitan, Michael Psellus, may be consulted. They are very numerous, and there is no climate or element without one or more.

And some in dreams assuréd were  
Of the Spirit that plagued us so ;  
Nine fathom deep he had followed us  
From the land of mist and snow.

cerning whom the learned Jew, Josephus, and the Platonic man, Michael Psellus, may be consulted. They are very numerous, climate or element without one or more.

And every tongue, through utter drought, 135  
Was withered at the root;  
We could not speak, no more than if  
We had been choked with soot.

The shipmates, in their sore distress, would fain throw the whole guilt on the ancient Mariner: in sign whereof the

Ah! well a-day! what evil looks  
Had I from old and young!  
Instead of the cross, the Albatross  
About my neck was hung.  
  
hang the dead sea-bird round his neck.

140

122 Nor] Ne L. B. 1798.

123 deep] deeps *L. B.*, 1798, 1800,

139 well a-day] wel-a-day *L.B.* 1798, 1800.

## PART III

There passed a weary time. Each throat  
Was parched, and glazed each eye.

A weary time! a weary time!

145

How glazed each weary eye,  
When looking westward, I beheld  
A something in the sky.

The ancient  
Mariner be-  
holdeth a sign  
in the element  
afar off.

At first it seemed a little speck,

And then it seemed a mist;

150

It moved and moved, and took at last  
A certain shape, I wist.

A speck, a mist, a shape, I wist!

And still it neared and neared:

155

As if it dodged a water-sprite,

It plunged and tacked and veered.

At its nearer  
approach, it  
seemeth him  
to be a ship;  
and at a dear  
ransom he  
freeth his  
speech from  
the bonds of  
thirst.

With throats unslaked, with black lips baked,  
We could nor laugh nor wail;  
Through utter drought all dumb we stood!  
I bit my arm, I sucked the blood,

160

And cried, A sail! a sail!

With throats unslaked, with black lips baked,  
Agape they heard me call:

*Between 143 and 149*

I saw a something in the sky

No bigger than my fist;

At first it seem'd, &c. L.B. 1798.

*Between 143 and 147*

So past a weary time, each throat

Was parch'd and glaz'd each eye,

When looking westward, &c. L.B. 1800.

[Lines 143-8 of the text in their present shape were added in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817.]

PART III] III L.B. 1798, 1800 : The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Part the Third, S.L. 1828, 1829.

154 And still it ner'd and ner'd. L.B. 1798, 1800. 155 And, an it  
dodg'd L.B. 1798 : And, as if it dodg'd L.B. 1800, S.L. 1817.

157-60 With throat unslack'd with black lips baked

Ne could we laugh, ne wail,

Then while thro' drouth all dumb they stood

I bit my arm, and suck'd the blood L.B. 1798.

157 With throat unslack'd, &c. L.B. 1800, 1802, S.L. 1817. 160 Till  
I bit my arm and suck'd the blood L.B. 1800. 162 With throat un-  
slack'd, &c. L.B. 1798, 1800, 1802, S.L. 1817.

A flash of joy; Gramercy! they for joy did grin,  
And all at once their breath drew in, 165  
As they were drinking all.

And horror follows. For  
can it be a  
ship that  
comes onward  
without wind  
or tide?

See! see! (I cried) she tacks no more!  
Hither to work us weal;  
Without a breeze, without a tide,  
She steadies with upright keel! 170

The western wave was all a-flame.  
The day was well nigh done!  
Almost upon the western wave  
Rested the broad bright Sun;  
When that strange shape drove suddenly 175  
Betwixt us and the Sun.

It seemeth  
him but the  
skeleton of  
a ship.

And straight the Sun was flecked with bars,  
(Heaven's Mother send us grace!)  
As if through a dungeon-grate he peered  
With broad and burning face. 180

And its ribs  
are seen as  
bars on the  
face of the  
setting Sun.  
The Spectre-  
Woman and  
her Death-  
mate, and no  
other on  
board the  
skeleton ship.

Alas! (thought I, and my heart beat loud)  
How fast she nears and nears!  
Are those *her* sails that glance in the Sun,  
Like restless gossameres?

Are those *her* ribs through which the Sun 185  
Did peer, as through a grate?  
And is that Woman all her crew?  
Is that a DEATH? and are there two?  
Is DEATH that woman's mate?

She doth not tack from side to side—  
Hither to work us weal.

Withouten wind, withouten tide

She steddies with upright keel. L. B. 1798.

170 She steddies L. B. 1800, S. L. 1817. 177 straight] strait L. B.  
1798, 1800. 182 neress and neress L. B. 1798, 1800. 183 *her*] her  
1834, and also in 185 and 190.

*Between 184-90* Are those her naked ribs, which fleck'd  
The sun that did behind them peer?  
And are those two all, all the crew,\*  
That woman and her fleshless Pheere?  
*His* bones were black with many a crack,  
All black and bare I ween;  
Jet-black and bare, save where with rust  
Of mouldy damps and charnel crust  
They're patch'd with purple and green. L. B. 1798.

\* those] these *Errata*, L. B. 1798.

Like vessel,  
like crew !  
Death and  
Life-in-Death  
have diced for  
the ship's  
crew, and she  
(the latter)  
winmeth the  
ancient  
Mariner.

*Her lips were red, her looks were free,*      190  
*Her locks were yellow as gold :*  
*Her skin was as white as leprosy,*  
*The Night-mare LIFE-IN-DEATH was she,*  
*Who thicketh man's blood with cold.*

*The naked hulk alongside came,*      195  
*And the twain were casting dice ;*  
*'The game is done ! I've won ! I've won !'*  
*Quoth she, and whistles thrice.*

Are those *her* ribs which fleck'd the Sun  
 Like the bars of a dungeon grate ?  
 And are those two all, all the crew  
 That woman and her mate ?

*MS. Correction of S. T. C. in L. B. 1798.*

Are those *her* Ribs, thro' which the Sun  
 Did peer as thro' a grate ?  
 And are those two all, all her crew,  
 That Woman, and her Mate ?

*His bones were black with many a crack*

• • • • •  
 They were patch'd with purple and green. *L. B. 1800.*

This Ship it was a plankless thing,  
 —A bare Anatomy !  
 A plankless spectre—and it mov'd  
 Like a Being of the Sea !  
 The woman and a fleshless man  
 Therein sate merrily.

His bones were black, &c. (as in 1800).

This stanza was found added in the handwriting of the Poet in the margin of a copy of the Bristol Edition [1798] of *Lyrical Ballads*. It is here printed for the first time. *Note P. and D. W., 1877-80, ii. 36.*

190-4.

*Her lips are red, her looks are free,*  
*Her locks are yellow as gold :*  
*Her skin is as white as leprosy,*  
*And she is far liker Death than he ;*  
*Her flesh makes the still air cold.* *L. B. 1798.*  
*Her lips were red, her looks were free,*  
*Her locks were as yellow as gold :*  
*Her skin was as white as leprosy,*  
*And she was far liker Death than he ;*  
*Her flesh made the still air cold.* *L. B. 1800.*

196 casting] playing *L. B. 1798, 1800.*  
 I've won *S. L. 1817, 1828, 1829, 1834, 1844.* The restoration of the text of 1798 and 1800 dates from 1852.

197 The game is done, I've,  
 198 whistles] whistled *L. B. 1798, 1800.*

No twilight  
within the<sup>1</sup>  
courts of the  
Sun.

The Sun's rim dips ; the stars rush out :  
At one stride comes the dark ;  
With far-heard whisper, o'er the sea,  
Off shot the spectre-bark.

200

At the rising  
of the Moon,

We listened and looked sideways up !  
Fear at my heart, as at a cup,  
My life-blood seemed to sip !  
The stars were dim, and thick the night,  
The steersman's face by his lamp gleamed white ;  
From the sails the dew did drip—

205

<sup>1</sup> Om. in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817.

*Between 198-218* A gust of wind sterte up behind  
And whistled thro' his bones ;  
Thro' the { holes of his eyes and the hole of his mouth—  
{ hole L. B. 1802, 1805  
Half-whistles and half-groans.

With never a whisper in the Sea  
Off darts the Spectre-ship ;  
While elombe above the Eastern bar  
The horned Moon with one bright Star  
Almost atween the tips.  
[Almost between the tips. L. B. 1800.]

One after one by the horned Moon  
(Listen, O Stranger ! to me)  
Each turn'd his face with a ghastly pang  
And curs'd me with his ee.

Four times fifty living men,  
With never a sigh or groan, L. B. 1798, 1800.

*Between 198-9* A gust of wind . . . half groans. S. L. (Page 15 erase  
the second stanza. *Errata, S. L.*, p. [xi].)

*Between 201-12*

With never a whisper on the main  
Off shot the spectre ship ;  
And stifled words and groans of pain  
Mix'd on each murmuring { lip.  
trembling }  
And we look'd round, and we look'd up,  
And fear at our hearts, as at a cup,  
The Life-blood seem'd to sip—  
The sky was dull, and dark the night,  
The helmsman's face by his lamp gleam'd bright,  
From the sails the dews did drip—  
Till elombe above the Eastern Bar,  
The horned Moon, with one bright star  
Within its nether tip.

*Undated MS. correction of S. T. C. (first published 1893).*

208 dew] dews S. L. 1817.

Till clomb above the eastern bar  
The hornéd Moon, with one bright star      210  
Within the nether tip.

One after  
another,

One after one, by the star-dogged Moon,  
Too quick for groan or sigh,  
Each turned his face with a ghastly pang,  
And cursed me with his eye.      215

His shipmates  
drop down  
dead.

Four times fifty living men,  
(And I heard nor sigh nor groan)  
With heavy thump, a lifeless lump,  
They dropped down one by one.

But Life-in-  
Death begins  
her work on  
the ancient  
Mariner.

The souls did from their bodies fly,—  
They fled to bliss or woe!  
And every soul, it passed me by,  
Like the whizz of my cross-bow!      220

The Wedding-  
Guest feareth  
that a Spirit  
is talking to  
him;

'I fear thee, ancient Mariner!  
I fear thy skinny hand!      225  
And thou art long, and lank, and brown,  
As is the ribbed sea-sand.<sup>1</sup>

But the  
ancient Ma-  
riner assureth  
him of his  
bodily life, and  
proceedeth to  
relate his hor-  
rible penance.

I fear thee and thy glittering eye,  
And thy skinny hand, so brown.—  
Fear not, fear not, thou Wedding-Guest!      230  
This body dropt not down.

He despiseth  
the creatures  
of the calm,

Alone, alone, all, all alone,  
Alone on a wide wide sea!  
And never a saint took pity on  
My soul in agony.      235

The many men, so beautiful!  
And they all dead did lie:

<sup>1</sup> For the last two lines of this stanza, I am indebted to Mr. WORDSWORTH. It was on a delightful walk from Nether Stowey to Dulverton, with him and his sister, in the Autumn of 1797, that this Poem was planned, and in part composed. [Note by S. T. C., first printed in *Sibylline Leaves*.]

209 clomb] clombe *S. L.* 1817, 1828.

PART IV] IV. *L. B.* 1798, 1800 : The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Part the Fourth *S. L.* 1828, 1829.

220 The] Their *L. B.* 1798, 1800.

224 ancyent Marinere *L. B.* 1798.

233-4      Alone on the wide wide sea;

And Christ would take no pity on *L. B.* 1798, 1800.

And a thousand thousand slimy things  
Lived on; and so did I.

And envieith  
that *they*  
should live,  
and so many  
lie dead.

I looked upon the rotting sea, 240  
And drew my eyes away;  
I looked upon the rotting deck,  
And there the dead men lay.

I looked to heaven, and tried to pray;  
But or ever a prayer had gusht, 245  
A wicked whisper came, and made  
My heart as dry as dust.

I closed my lids, and kept them close,  
And the balls like pulses beat;  
For the sky and the sea, and the sea and the sky 250  
Lay like a load on my weary eye,  
And the dead were at my feet.

But the curse  
liveth for him  
in the eye of  
the dead men.

The cold sweat melted from their limbs,  
Nor rot nor reek did they:  
The look with which they looked on me 255  
Had never passed away.

An orphan's curse would drag to hell  
A spirit from on high;  
But oh! more horrible than that  
Is the curse in a dead man's eye! 260  
Seven days, seven nights, I saw that curse,  
And yet I could not die.

In his lone-  
liness and  
fixedness he  
yearneth to-  
wards the  
journeying  
Moon, and the  
stars that still  
sojourn, yet  
still move  
onward; and  
every where  
the blue sky  
belongs to  
them, and is  
their appointed rest, and their native country and their own natural homes,  
which they enter unannounced, as lords that are certainly expected and yet  
there is a silent joy at their arrival.

The moving Moon went up the sky,  
And no where did abide:  
Softly she was going up, 265  
And a star or two beside—

Her beams bemocked the sultry main,  
Like April hoar-frost spread;  
But where the ship's huge shadow lay,  
The charméd water burnt alway 270  
A still and awful red.

238 And a million, million slimy things *L. B. 1798, 1800.* 242  
rotting] eldritech *L. B. 1798:* ghastly *L. B. 1800.* 249 And] Till  
*L. B. 1798, 1800.* 251 load] cloud *S. L.* (for *cloud* read *load.* *Errata,*  
*S. L.*, p. [xi]). 254 Ne rot, ne reek *L. B. 1798.* 260 the curse]  
a curse *1828, 1829.* 268 Like morning frosts ysspread *L. B. 1798.*

By the light  
of the Moon he  
beholdeth  
God's crea-  
tures of the  
great calm.

Beyond the shadow of the ship,  
I watched the water-snakes :  
They moved in tracks of shining white,  
And when they reared, the elfish light      275  
Fell off in hoary flakes.

Their beauty  
and their  
happiness.

He blesseth  
them in his  
heart.

The spell  
begins to  
break.

Within the shadow of the ship  
I watched their rich attire :  
Blue, glossy green, and velvet black,  
They coiled and swam ; and every track      280  
Was a flash of golden fire.

O happy living things ! no tongue  
Their beauty might declare :  
A spring of love gushed from my heart,  
And I blessed them unaware :      285  
Sure my kind saint took pity on me,  
And I blessed them unaware.

The self-same moment I could pray ;  
And from my neck so free  
The Albatross fell off, and sank      290  
Like lead into the sea.

## PART V

Oh sleep ! it is a gentle thing.  
Beloved from pole to pole !  
To Mary Queen the praise be given !  
She sent the gentle sleep from Heaven,      295  
That slid into my soul.

By grace of  
the holy  
Mother, the  
ancient  
Mariner is  
refreshed with  
rain.

The silly buckets on the deck,  
That had so long remained,  
I dreamt that they were filled with dew ;  
And when I awoke, it rained.      300

My lips were wet, my throat was cold,  
My garments all were dank ;  
Sure I had drunken in my dreams,  
And still my body drank.

PART V] V. L. B. 1798, 1800 : The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Part the Fifth S. L. 1828, 1829.

294 To Mary-queen L. B. 1798, 1800. given] yeven L. B. 1798.      300  
awoke] woke (*a pencilled correction in 1828, ? by S. T. C.*).

I moved, and could not feel my limbs :      305  
 I was so light—almost  
 I thought that I had died in sleep,  
 And was a blessed ghost.

He heareth  
 sounds and  
 seeth strange  
 sights and  
 commotions in  
 the sky and  
 the element.

And soon I heard a roaring wind :  
 It did not come anear ;      310  
 But with its sound it shook the sails,  
 That were so thin and sere.

The upper air burst into life !  
 And a hundred fire-flags sheen,  
 To and fro they were hurried about !      315  
 And to and fro, and in and out,  
 The wan stars danced between.

And the coming wind did roar more loud,  
 And the sails did sigh like sedge ;  
 And the rain poured down from one black  
 cloud ;      320  
 The Moon was at its edge.

The thick black cloud was cleft, and still  
 The Moon was at its side :  
 Like waters shot from some high crag,  
 The lightning fell with never a jag,      325  
 A river steep and wide.

The bodies of  
 the ship's crew  
 are inspired  
 [inspirited,  
*S. L.*] and the  
 ship moves  
 on ;

The loud wind never reached the ship,  
 Yet now the ship moved on !  
 Beneath the lightning and the Moon  
 The dead men gave a groan.      330

They groaned, they stirred, they all uprose,  
 Nor spake, nor moved their eyes ;

309 The roaring wind ! it roar'd far off *L. B. 1798.*      313 burst]  
 bursts *L. B. 1798.*      315 were] are *L. B. 1798.*      317 The stars dance on  
 between. *L. B. 1798.*

317-24      The coming wind doth roar more loud ;

The sails do sigh, like sedge :  
 The rain pours down from one black cloud  
 And the Moon is at its edge.

Hark ! hark ! the thick black cloud is cleft,  
 And the Moon is at its side *L. B. 1798.*

325 fell] falls *L. B. 1798.*

327-8      The strong wind reach'd the ship : it roar'd  
 And dropp'd down like a stone ! *L. B. 1798.*

332 nor . . . nor] ne . . . ne *L. B. 1798.*

It had been strange, even in a dream,  
To have seen those dead men rise.

The helmsman steered, the ship moved on ; 335  
Yet never a breeze up-blew ;  
The mariners all 'gan work the ropes,  
Where they were wont to do ;  
They raised their limbs like lifeless tools—  
We were a ghastly crew. 340

The body of my brother's son  
Stood by me, knee to knee :  
The body and I pulled at one rope,  
But he said nought to me.

'I fear thee, ancient Mariner !' 345  
Be calm, thou Wedding-Guest !  
'Twas not those souls that fled in pain,  
Which to their corses came again,  
But a troop of spirits blest :

For when it dawned—they dropped their arms,  
And clustered round the mast ; 351  
Sweet sounds rose slowly through their mouths,  
And from their bodies passed.

Around, around, flew each sweet sound,  
Then darted to the Sun ; 355  
Slowly the sounds came back again,  
Now mixed, now one by one.

Sometimes a-dropping from the sky  
I heard the sky-lark sing ;  
Sometimes all little birds that are, 360  
How they seemed to fill the sea and air  
With their sweet jargoning !

And now 'twas like all instruments,  
Now like a lonely flute ;  
And now it is an angel's song, 365  
That makes the heavens be mute.

*Between 344-5*

And I quak'd to think of my own voice  
How frightful it would be ! L. B. 1798.

345-9 om. in L. B. 1798, added in L. B. 1800. 350 The daylight dawn'd  
L. B. 1798. 359 sky-lark] Lavrock L. B. 1798.

It ceased ; yet still the sails made on  
 A pleasant noise till noon,  
 A noise like of a hidden brook  
 In the leafy month of June,                           370  
 That to the sleeping woods all night  
 Singeth a quiet tune.

Till noon we quietly sailed on,  
 Yet never a breeze did breathe:  
 Slowly and smoothly went the ship,                           375  
 Moved onward from beneath.

The lonesome  
 Spirit from  
 the south-pole  
 carries on the  
 ship as far as  
 the Line, in  
 obedience to  
 the angelic  
 troop, but still  
 requireth  
 vengeance.

Under the keel nine fathom deep,  
 From the land of mist and snow,  
 The spirit slid : and it was he  
 That made the ship to go.                                   380  
 The sails at noon left off their tune,  
 And the ship stood still also.

The Sun, right up above the mast,  
 Had fixed her to the ocean :  
 But in a minute she 'gan stir,                           385  
 With a short uneasy motion—  
 Backwards and forwards half her length  
 With a short uneasy motion.

Then like a pawing horse let go,  
 She made a sudden bound :                                   390

*Between 372-3*

Listen, O listen, thou Wedding-guest !  
 'Marinere ! thou hast thy will :  
 'For that, which comes out of thine eye, doth make  
 'My body and soul to be still.'

Never sadder tale was told  
 To a man of woman born :  
 Sadder and wiser thou wedding-guest !  
 Thoul't rise to-morrow morn.

Never sadder tale was heard  
 By a man of woman born :  
 The Marineres all return'd to work  
 As silent as beforne.

The Marineres all 'gan pull the ropes,  
 But look at me they n'old ;—  
 Thought I, I am as thin as air—  
 They cannot me behold. *L. B. 1798.*

373 quietly] silently *L. B. 1798, 1800.*

It flung the blood into my head,  
And I fell down in a swoon.

The Polar Spirit's fellow-dæmons, the invisible inhabitants of the element, take part in his wrong; and two of them relate, one to the other, that penance long and heavy for the ancient Mariner hath been accorded to the Polar Spirit, who returneth southward.

How long in that same fit I lay,  
I have not to declare;  
But ere my living life returned, 395  
I heard and in my soul discerned  
Two voices in the air.

'Is it he?' quoth one, 'Is this the man?  
By him who died on cross,  
With his cruel bow he laid full low  
The harmless Albatross. 400

The spirit who bideth by himself  
In the land of mist and snow,  
He loved the bird that loved the man  
Who shot him with his bow.' 405

The other was a softer voice,  
As soft as honey-dew:  
Quoth he, 'The man hath penance done,  
And penance more will do.'

## PART VI

### FIRST VOICE

'But tell me, tell me! speak again, 410  
Thy soft response renewing—  
What makes that ship drive on so fast?  
What is the ocean doing?'

### SECOND VOICE

'Still as a slave before his lord,  
The ocean hath no blast; 415  
His great bright eye most silently  
Up to the Moon is cast—

If he may know which way to go;  
For she guides him smooth or grim.  
See, brother, see! how graciously 420  
She looketh down on him.'

392 down in] into L. B. 1798, 1800.

PART VI] VI. L. B. 1798, 1800 : The Rime of the Ancient Mariner. Part the Sixth S. L. 1828, 1829.

## FIRST VOICE

The Mariner  
hath been  
cast into a  
trance; for the  
angelic power  
causeth the  
vessel to drive  
northward  
faster than  
human life  
could endure.

'But why drives on that ship so fast,  
Without or wave or wind?'

## SECOND VOICE

'The air is cut away before,  
And closes from behind.'

425

Fly, brother, fly! more high, more high!  
Or we shall be belated:  
For slow and slow that ship will go,  
When the Mariner's trance is abated.'

The super-  
natural motion  
is retarded;  
the Mariner  
awakes, and  
his penance  
begins anew.

I woke, and we were sailing on                  430  
As in a gentle weather:  
'Twas night, calm night, the moon was high;  
The dead men stood together.

All stood together on the deck,  
For a charnel-dungeon fitter:                  435  
All fixed on me their stony eyes,  
That in the Moon did glitter.

The pang, the curse, with which they died,  
Had never passed away:  
I could not draw my eyes from theirs,        440  
Nor turn them up to pray.

The curse is  
finally ex-  
piated.

And now this spell was snapt: once more  
I viewed the ocean green,  
And looked far forth, yet little saw  
Of what had else been seen—                  445

Like one, that on a lonesome road  
Doth walk in fear and dread,  
And having once turned round walks on,  
And turns no more his head;  
Because he knows, a frightful fiend        450  
Doth close behind him tread.

423 Withouten wave *L. B. 1798.*                  440-1 een from theirs; Ne turn  
*L. B. 1798.*

442-6 And in its time the spell was snapt,  
And I could move my een:

I look'd far-forth, but little saw  
Of what might else be seen. *L. B. 1798.*

446 lonesome] lonely *L. B. 1798.*

But soon there breathed a wind on me,  
Nor sound nor motion made:  
Its path was not upon the sea,  
In ripple or in shade.

455

It raised my hair, it fanned my cheek  
Like a meadow-gale of spring—  
It mingled strangely with my fears,  
Yet it felt like a welcoming.

Swiftly, swiftly flew the ship,  
Yet she sailed softly too:  
Sweetly, sweetly blew the breeze—  
On me alone it blew.

460

And the  
ancient  
Mariner be-  
holdeth his  
native  
country.

Oh! dream of joy! is this indeed  
The light-house top I see?  
Is this the hill? is this the kirk?  
Is this mine own countree?

465

We drifted o'er the harbour-bar,  
And I with sobs did pray—  
O let me be awake, my God!  
Or let me sleep alway.

470

The harbour-bay was clear as glass,  
So smoothly it was strewn!  
And on the bay the moonlight lay,  
And the shadow of the Moon.

475

453 Nor . . . nor] Ne . . . ne *L. B.* 1798.      464 O dream *L. B.* 1798, 1800.  
Between 475-80

The moonlight bay was white all o'er,  
Till rising from the same,  
Full many shapes, that shadows were,  
Like as of torches came.

A little distance from the prow  
Those dark-red shadows were;  
But soon I saw that my own flesh  
Was red as in a glare.

I turn'd my head in fear and dread,  
And by the holy rood,  
The bodies had advanc'd, and now  
Before the mast they stood.

They lifted up their stiff right arms,  
They held them strait and tight;  
And each right-arm burnt like a torch,  
A torch that's borne upright.  
Their stony eye-balls glitter'd on  
In the red and smoky light.

The rock shone bright, the kirk no less,  
That stands above the rock:  
The moonlight steeped in silentness  
The steady weathercock.

And the bay was white with silent light, 480  
Till rising from the same,  
Full many shapes, that shadows were,  
In crimson colours came.

The angelic spirits leave  
the dead bodies,  
And appear in their own forms of light.  
A little distance from the prow  
Those crimson shadows were: 485  
I turned my eyes upon the deck—  
Oh, Christ! what saw I there!

Each corse lay flat, lifeless and flat,  
And, by the holy rood!  
A man all light, a seraph-man, 490  
On every corse there stood.

This seraph-band, each waved his hand:  
It was a heavenly sight!  
They stood as signals to the land,  
Each one a lovely light; 495

This seraph-band, each waved his hand,  
No voice did they impart—  
No voice; but oh! the silence sank  
Like music on my heart.

But soon I heard the dash of oars, 500  
I heard the Pilot's cheer;  
My head was turned perforce away,  
And I saw a boat appear.

I pray'd and turn'd my head away  
Forth looking as before.

There was no breeze upon the bay,  
No wave against the shore. L. B. 1798.

487 Oh, Christ!] O Christ L. B. 1798, 1800. 498 oh!] O L. B. 1798,  
1800. 500 But soon] Eftsones L. B. 1798.

*Between 503-4*

Then vanish'd all the lovely lights;\*  
The bodies rose anew:  
With silent pace, each to his place,  
Came back the ghastly crew,  
The wind, that shade nor motion made,  
On me alone it blew. L. B. 1798.

\* Then vanish'd all the lovely lights,  
The spirits of the air,  
No souls of mortal men were they,  
But spirits bright and fair.

*MS. Correction by S. T. C. in a copy of L. B. 1798.*

The Pilot and the Pilot's boy,  
I heard them coming fast:  
Dear Lord in Heaven ! it was a joy  
The dead men could not blast.

505

I saw a third—I heard his voice :  
It is the Hermit good !  
He singeth loud his godly hymns  
That he makes in the wood.  
He'll shrieve my soul, he'll wash away  
The Albatross's blood.

510

## PART VII

The Hermit of  
the Wood,

This Hermit good lives in that wood  
Which slopes down to the sea.  
How loudly his sweet voice he rears !  
He loves to talk with marineres  
That come from a far countree.

515

He kneels at morn, and noon, and eve—  
He hath a cushion plump :  
It is the moss that wholly hides  
The rotted old oak-stump.

520

The skiff-boat neared : I heard them talk,  
'Why, this is strange, I trow !  
Where are those lights so many and fair, 525  
That signal made but now ?'

Approacheth  
the ship with  
wonder.

'Strange, by my faith !' the Hermit said—  
'And they answered not our cheer !  
The planks looked warped ! and see those sails,  
How thin they are and sere ! 530  
I never saw aught like to them,  
Unless perchance it were

Brown skeletons of leaves that lag  
My forest-brook along ;

511 makes] maketh (*a pencilled correction in 1828, ? by S. T. C.*).

PART VII] VII. L. B. 1798, 1800 : The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Part the Seventh S. L. 1829 : The Ancient Mariner. Part the Seventh 1828.

517 marineres] mariners L. B. 1800. 518 That come from a far Contrée. L. B. 1798. 523 neared] ner'd L. B. 1798, 1800. 529 looked] look L. B. 1798, 1800, S. L. 533 Brown] The L. B. 1798, 1800, S. L. [for The read Brown. Errata, S. L. 1817, p. (xi)].

When the ivy-tod is heavy with snow, 535  
 And the owl whoops to the wolf below,  
 That eats the she-wolf's young.'

'Dear Lord! it hath a fiendish look—  
 (The Pilot made reply)  
 I am a-feared'—'Push on, push on!' 540  
 Said the Hermit cheerily.

The boat came closer to the ship,  
 But I nor spake nor stirred;  
 The boat came close beneath the ship,  
 And straight a sound was heard. 545

The ship  
suddenly  
sinketh.

The ancient  
Mariner is  
saved in the  
Pilot's boat.

Under the water it rumbled on,  
 Still louder and more dread:  
 It reached the ship, it split the bay;  
 The ship went down like lead.

Stunned by that loud and dreadful sound, 550  
 Which sky and ocean smote,  
 Like one that hath been seven days drowned  
 My body lay afloat;  
 But swift as dreams, myself I found  
 Within the Pilot's boat. 555

Upon the whirl, where sank the ship,  
 The boat spun round and round;  
 And all was still, save that the hill  
 Was telling of the sound.

I moved my lips—the Pilot shrieked 560  
 And fell down in a fit;  
 The holy Hermit raised his eyes,  
 And prayed where he did sit.

I took the oars: the Pilot's boy,  
 Who now doth crazy go, 565  
 Laughed loud and long, and all the while  
 His eyes went to and fro.  
 'Ha! ha!' quoth he, 'full plain I see,  
 The Devil knows how to row.'

And now, all in my own countree, 570  
 I stood on the firm land!  
 The Hermit stepped forth from the boat,  
 And scarcely he could stand.

The ancient  
Mariner  
earnestly en-  
treateth the  
Hermit to  
shrieve him ;  
and the  
penance of  
life falls on  
him.

And ever and  
anon through-  
out his future  
life an agony  
constraineth  
him to travel  
from land to  
land ;

'O shrieve me, shrieve me, holy man !'  
The Hermit crossed his brow.  
'Say quick,' quoth he, 'I bid thee say—  
What manner of man art thou ?'

Forthwith this frame of mine was wrenched  
With a woful agony,  
Which forced me to begin my tale ;        580  
And then it left me free.

Since then, at an uncertain hour,  
That agony returns :  
And till my ghastly tale is told,  
This heart within me burns.        585

I pass, like night, from land to land ;  
I have strange power of speech ;  
That moment that his face I see,  
I know the man that must hear me :  
To him my tale I teach.        590

What loud uproar bursts from that door !  
The wedding-guests are there :  
But in the garden-bower the bride  
And bride-maids singing are :  
And hark the little vesper bell,        595  
Which biddeth me to prayer !

O Wedding-Guest ! this soul hath been  
Alone on a wide wide sea :  
So lonely 'twas, that God himself  
Scarce seeméd there to be.        600

O sweeter than the marriage-feast,  
'Tis sweeter far to me,  
To walk together to the kirk  
With a goodly company !—  
To walk together to the kirk,        605  
And all together pray,  
While each to his great Father bends,  
Old men, and babes, and loving friends  
And youths and maidens gay !

577 What manner man *L. B. 1798, 1800.*

582-5 Since then at an uncertain hour,

Now oftentimes and now fewer,  
That anguish comes and makes me tell  
My ghastly aventur. *L. B. 1798.*

583 agony] agency [*a misprint*] *L. B. 1800.*  
*1798, 1800.*

588 That] The *L. B.*

And to teach,  
by his own  
example, love  
and reverence  
to all things  
that God made  
and loveth.

Farewell, farewell! but this I tell  
To the three—III. 1. 1. 1.

To thee, thou Wedding-Guest!

He prayeth well, who loveth well  
Both man and bird and beast.

He prayeth best, who loveth best  
All things both great and small;  
For the dear God who loveth us,  
He made and loveth all. 615

The Mariner, whose eye is bright,  
Whose beard with age is hoar,  
Is gone: and now the Wedding-Guest      620  
Turned from the bridegroom's door.

He went like one that hath been stunned,  
And is of sense forlorn :  
A sadder and a wiser man,  
He rose the Morrow morn.

1797-1798.

SONNETS ATTEMPTED IN THE MANNER OF  
CONTEMPORARY WRITERS<sup>1</sup>

[SIGNED 'NEHEMIAH HIGGINBOTTOM']

1

PENSIVE at eve on the *hard* world I mus'd,  
And my poor heart was sad; so at the Moon

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Monthly Magazine* for November, 1797. They were reprinted in the *Poetical Register* for 1803 (1805); by Coleridge in the *Biographia Literaria*, 1817, i. 26-8\*; and by Cottle in *Early Recollections*, i. 290-2; and in *Reminiscences*, p. 160. They were first collected in *P. and P.W.* 1877-80, i. 211-13.

\* 'Under the name of Nehemiah Higginbottom I contributed three sonnets, the first of which had for its object to excite a good-natured laugh at the spirit of doleful egotism and at the recurrence of favourite phrases, with the double defect of being at once trite and licentious. The second was on low creeping language and thoughts under the pretence of *simplicity*. The third, the phrases of which were borrowed entirely from my own poems, on the indiscriminate use of elaborate and swelling language and imagery. . . . So general at the time and so decided was the opinion

610 Farewell, farewell] The comma to be omitted. *Errata, L. B.* 1798. 618  
The Marinere *L. B.* 1798.

*Sonnets. &c.—Title] Sonnet I M.M.*

I gaz'd—and sigh'd, and sigh'd !—for, ah ! how soon  
 Eve darkens into night. Mine eye perus'd  
 With tearful vacancy the *dampy* grass      5  
 Which wept and glitter'd in the *paly* ray ;  
 And *I did pause me* on my lonely way,  
 And *mused me* on those *wretched ones* who pass  
*O'er the black heath of Sorrow.* But, alas !  
 Most of *Myself* I thought : when it befell      10  
 That the *sooth* Spirit of the breezy wood  
 Breath'd in mine ear—'All this is very well ;  
 But much of *one* thing is for *no* thing good.'  
 Ah ! my poor heart's INEXPLICABLE SWELL !

## II

## TO SIMPLICITY

O ! I do love thee, meek *Simplicity* !  
 For of thy lays the lulling simpleness  
 Goes to my heart and soothes each small distress,  
 Distress though small, yet haply great to me !  
 'Tis true on Lady Fortune's gentlest pad      5  
 I amble on ; yet, though I know not why,  
 So sad I am !—but should a friend and I  
 Grow cool and *miff*, O ! I am *very* sad !

concerning the characteristic vices of my style that a celebrated physician (now alas ! no more) speaking of me in other respects with his usual kindness to a gentleman who was about to meet me at a dinner-party could not, however, resist giving him a hint not to mention *The House that Jack Built* in my presence, for that I was as sore as a boil about that sonnet, he not knowing that I was myself the author of it.'

Coleridge's first account of these sonnets in a letter to Cottle [November, 1797] is much to the same effect :—'I sent to the *Monthly Magazine* (1797) three mock Sonnets in ridicule of my own Poems, and Charles Lloyd's and Lamb's, etc., etc., exposing that affectation of unaffectedness, of jumping and misplaced accent in common-place epithets, flat lines forced into poetry by italics (signifying how well and mouthishly the author would read them), puny pathos, etc., etc. The instances were almost all taken from myself and Lloyd and Lamb. I signed them "Nehemiah Higginbottom". I think they may do good to our young Bards.' [E. R., i. 289 ; Rem. 160.]

*Sonnets, &c.—1. 4* darkens] saddens *B. L.*, i. 27.      6 Which] That *B. L.*, i. 27.      8 those] the *B. L.*, i. 27.      who] that *B. L.*, i. 27.      9 black] bleak *B. L.*, i. 27.      14 Ah !] Oh ! *B. L.*, i. 27.      11] Sonnet II. To Simplicity *M. M.* : no title in *B. L.*      6 yet, though] and yet *B. L.*, i. 27. 8 Frown, pout and part then I am *very* sad *B. L.*, i. 27.

And then with sonnets and with sympathy  
 My dreamy bosom's mystic woes I pall ;  
 Now of my false friend plaining plaintively,  
 Now raving at mankind in general ;  
 But, whether sad or fierce, 'tis simple all,  
 All very simple, meek Simplicity !

10

## III

## ON A RUINED HOUSE IN A ROMANTIC COUNTRY

AND this reft house is that the which he built,  
 Lamented Jack ! And here his malt he pil'd,  
 Cautious in vain ! These rats that squeak so wild,  
 Squeak, not unconscious of their father's guilt.  
 Did ye not see her gleaming thro' the glade ?  
 Belike, 'twas she, the maiden all forlorn.  
 What though she milk no cow with crumpled horn,  
 Yet *aye* she haunts the dale where *erst* she stray'd ;  
 And *aye* beside her stalks her amorous knight !  
 Still on his thighs their wonted brogues are worn,  
 And thro' those brogues, still tatter'd and betorn,  
 His hindward charms gleam an unearthly white ;  
 As when thro' broken clouds at night's high noon  
 Peeps in fair fragments forth the full-orb'd harvest-moon !

10

1797.

PARLIAMENTARY OSCILLATORS<sup>1</sup>

ALMOST awake ? Why, what is this, and whence,  
 O ye right loyal men, all undefilé ?  
 Sure, 'tis not possible that Common-Sense  
 Has hitch'd her pullies to each heavy eye-lid ?

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Cambridge Intelligencer*, January 6, 1798 : included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817 : *Essays on His own Times*, 1850, iii. 969-70. First collected in *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80. In *Sibylline Leaves* the poem is incorrectly dated 1794.

12 in gener-al *Cottle*, *E. R.*, i. 288.

13] Sonnet III. To, &c. M.M. 10 their] his *Cottle*, *E. R.*, i. 292. 13  
As when] Ah ! thus *B. L.*, i. 27.

*Parliamentary Oscillators*—Title] To Sir John Sinclair, S. Thornton, Alderman Lushington, and the whole Troop of Parliamentary Oscillators *C. I.*

2 right] tight *C. I.* 3 It's hardly possible *C. I.*

Yet wherefore else that start, which discomposes  
 The drowsy waters lingering in your eye?  
 And are you *really* able to desery  
 That precipice three yards beyond your noses?

5

Yet flatter you I cannot, that your wit  
 Is much improved by this long loyal dozing;  
 And I admire, no more than Mr. Pitt,  
 Your jumps and starts of patriotic prosing—

10

Now cluttering to the Treasury Cluck, like chicken,  
 Now with small beaks the ravenous *Bill* opposing;<sup>1</sup>  
 With serpent-tongue now stinging, and now licking,  
 Now semi-sibilant, now smoothly glozing—

15

Now having faith implicit that he can't err,  
 Hoping his hopes, alarm'd with his alarms;  
 And now believing him a sly inchanter,  
 Yet still afraid to break his brittle charms,

20

Lest some mad Devil suddenly unhamp'ring,  
 Slap-dash! the imp should fly off with the steeple,  
 On revolutionary broom-stick scampering.—  
 O ye soft-headed and soft-hearted people,

If you can stay so long from slumber free,<sup>25</sup>  
 My muse shall make an effort to salute 'e:  
 For lo! a very dainty simile  
 Flash'd sudden through my brain, and 'twill just suit 'e!

You know that water-fowl that cries, Quack! Quack! ?  
 Full often have I seen a waggish crew  
 Fasten the Bird of Wisdom on its back,  
 The ivy-haunting bird, that cries, Tu-whoo !

30

Both plung'd together in the deep mill-stream,  
 (Mill-stream, or farm-yard pond, or mountain-lake,)  
 Shrill, as a *Church* and *Constitution* scream,  
 Tu-whoo! quoth Broad-face, and down dives the Drake!

35

<sup>1</sup> Pitt's 'treble assessment at seven millions' which formed part of the budget for 1798. The grant was carried in the House of Commons, Jan. 4, 1798.

<sup>9</sup> But yet I cannot flatter you, your wit *C. I.*      <sup>14</sup> the] his *C. I.*  
<sup>24</sup> O ye soft-hearted and soft-headed, &c. *C. I.*      <sup>26, 28</sup> 'e] ye *C. I.*  
<sup>29</sup> that cries] which cries *C. I.*      <sup>30</sup> Full often] Ditch-full oft *C. I.*  
<sup>31</sup> Fasten] Fallen *C. I.*

The green-neck'd Drake once more pops up to view,  
 Stares round, cries Quack! and makes an angry pother;  
 Then shriller screams the Bird with eye-lids blue,  
 The broad-faced Bird! and deeper dives the other.      40  
**Ye quacking Statesmen!** 'tis even so with you—  
 One Peasecod is not liker to another.

Even so on Loyalty's Decoy-pond, each  
 Pops up his head, as fir'd with British blood,  
 Hears once again the Ministerial screech,      45  
 And once more seeks the bottom's blackest mud!

1798.

(Signed: LABERIUS.)

## CHRISTABEL<sup>1</sup>

### PREFACE

THE first part of the following poem was written in the year 1797, at Stowey, in the county of Somerset. The second part, after my return from Germany, in the year 1800, at Keswick, Cumberland. It is probable that if the

<sup>1</sup> First published, together with *Kubla Khan* and *The Pains of Sleep*, 1816: included in 1828, 1829, and 1834. Three MSS. of *Christabel* have passed through my hands. The earliest, which belonged to Wordsworth, is partly in Coleridge's handwriting and partly in that of Mary Hutchinson (Mrs. Wordsworth). The probable date of this MS., now in the possession of the poet's grandson, Mr. Gordon Wordsworth, is April–October, 1800. Later in the same year, or perhaps in 1801, Coleridge made a copy of the First Part (or Book), the Conclusion to the First Book, and the Second Book, and presented it to Mrs. Wordsworth's sister, Sarah Hutchinson. A facsimile of the MS., now in the possession of Miss Edith Coleridge, was issued in collotype in the edition of *Christabel* published in

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PREFACE] Prefixed to the three issues of 1816, and to 1828, 1829, 1834.  
*Christabel*—Preface. 2 The year one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven 1816, 1828, 1829. 3, 4 The year one thousand eight hundred 1816, 1828, 1829. 4 *after 'Cumberland'*] Since the latter date, my poetic powers have been, till very lately, in a state of suspended animation. But as, in my very first conception of the tale, I had the whole present to my mind, with the wholeness, no less than the liveliness of a vision; I trust that I shall be able to embody in verse the three parts yet to come, in the course of the present year. *It is probable, &c.* 1816, 1828, 1829 : om. 1834.

poem had been finished at either of the former periods, or 5 if even the first and second part had been published in the year 1800, the impression of its originality would have been much greater than I dare at present expect. But for this I have only my own indolence to blame. The dates are mentioned for the exclusive purpose of precluding charges of 10 plagiarism or servile imitation from myself. For there is amongst us a set of critics, who seem to hold, that every possible thought and image is traditional; who have no notion that there are such things as fountains in the world, small as well as great; and who would therefore charitably 15

1907, under the auspices of the Royal Society of Literature. In 1801, or at some subsequent period (possibly not till 1815), Miss Hutchinson transcribed Coleridge's MS. The water-mark of the paper is 1801. Her transcript, now in the possession of Mr. A. H. Hallam Murray, was sent to Lord Byron in October, 1815. It is possible that this transcription was the 'copy' for the First Edition published in 1816; but, if so, Coleridge altered the text whilst the poem was passing through the press.

The existence of two other MSS. rests on the authority of John Payne Collier (see *Seven Lectures on Shakespeare and Milton*. By S. T. Coleridge, 1856, pp. xxxix-xliii).

The first, which remained in his possession for many years, was a copy in the handwriting of Sarah Stoddart (afterwards Mrs. Hazlitt). J. P. Collier notes certain differences between this MS., which he calls the 'Salisbury Copy', and the text of the First Edition. He goes on to say that before *Christabel* was published Coleridge lent him an MS. in his own handwriting, and he gives two or three readings from the second MS. which differ from the text of the 'Salisbury Copy' and from the texts of those MSS. which have been placed in my hands.

The copy of the First Edition of *Christabel* presented to William Stewart Rose's valet, David Hinves, on November 11, 1816, which Coleridge had already corrected, is now in the possession of Mr. John Murray. The emendations and additions inscribed on the margin of this volume were included in the collected edition of Coleridge's *Poetical Works*, published by William Pickering in 1828. The editions of 1829 and 1834 closely followed the edition of 1828, but in 1834 there was in one particular instance (Part I, lines 6-10) a reversion to the text of the First Edition. The MS. of the 'Conclusion of Part II' forms part of a letter to Southey dated May 6, 1801. (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 355.) The following abbreviations have been employed to note the MSS. and transcriptions of *Christabel* :—

1. The Wordsworth MS., partly in Coleridge's (lines 1-295), and partly in Mary Hutchinson's (lines 295-655) handwriting = *MS. W.*
2. The Salisbury MS., copied by Sarah Stoddart = *S. T. C. (a).*
3. The MS. lent by Coleridge to Payne Collier = *S. T. C. (b).*
4. Autograph MS. in possession of Miss Edith Coleridge (reproduced in facsimile in 1907) = *S. T. C. (c).*
5. Transcription made by Sarah Hutchinson = *S. H.*
6. Corrections made by Coleridge in the Copy of the First Edition presented to David Hinves = *H. 1816.*

derive every rill they behold flowing, from a perforation made in some other man's tank. I am confident, however, that as far as the present poem is concerned, the celebrated poets<sup>1</sup> whose writings I might be suspected of having imitated, either in particular passages, or in the tone and 20 the spirit of the whole, would be among the first to vindicate me from the charge, and who, on any striking coincidence, would permit me to address them in this doggerel version of two monkish Latin hexameters.<sup>2</sup>

'Tis mine and it is likewise yours ;  
But an if this will not do ;  
Let it be mine, good friend ! for I  
Am the poorer of the two.

25

I have only to add that the metre of Christabel is not, properly speaking, irregular, though it may seem so from its 30 being founded on a new principle : namely, that of counting in each line the accents, not the syllables. Though the latter may vary from seven to twelve, yet in each line the accents will be found to be only four. Nevertheless, this occasional variation in number of syllables is not introduced wantonly, 35 or for the mere ends of convenience, but in correspondence with some transition in the nature of the imagery or passion.

## PART I

'Tis the middle of night by the castle clock,  
And the owls have awakened the crowing cock ;  
Tu—whit ! — Tu—whoo !  
And hark, again ! the crowing cock,  
How drowsily it crew.

5

<sup>1</sup> Sir Walter Scott and Lord Byron.

<sup>2</sup> The 'Latin hexameters', 'in the lame and limping metre of a barbarous Latin poet', ran thus :

'Est meum et est tuum, amice ! at si amborum nequit esse,  
Sit meum, amice, precor : quia certe sum magi' pauper.'

It is interesting to note that Coleridge translated these lines in November, 1801, long before the 'celebrated poets' in question had made, or seemed to make, it desirable to 'preclude a charge of plagiarism'.

<sup>23</sup> doggrel 1816, 1828, 1829.

PART I] Book the First MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H. : Part the First 1828, 1829.

<sup>3</sup> Tu-u-whoo ! Tu-u-whoo ! MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H.

Sir Leoline, the Baron rich,  
 Hath a toothless mastiff bitch ;  
 From her kennel beneath the rock  
 She maketh answer to the clock,  
 Four for the quarters, and twelve for the hour ;      10  
 Ever and aye, by shine and shower,  
 Sixteen short howls, not over loud ;  
 Some say, she sees my lady's shroud.

Is the night chilly and dark ?  
 The night is chilly, but not dark.      15  
 The thin gray cloud is spread on high,  
 It covers but not hides the sky.  
 The moon is behind, and at the full ;  
 And yet she looks both small and dull.  
 The night is chill, the cloud is gray :      20  
 'Tis a month before the month of May,  
 And the Spring comes slowly up this way.

The lovely lady, Christabel,  
 Whom her father loves so well,  
 What makes her in the wood so late,      25  
 A furlong from the castle gate ?  
 She had dreams all yesternight  
 Of her own betrothéd knight ;  
 And she in the midnight wood will pray  
 For the weal of her lover that's far away.      30

She stole along, she nothing spoke,  
 The sighs she heaved were soft and low,  
 And naught was green upon the oak  
 But moss and rarest misletoe :

6-7 Sir Leoline the Baron ~~held~~  
 Hath a toothless mastiff old *H. 1816.*  
 Sir Leoline, the Baron rich,  
 Hath a toothless mastiff which *H. 1816, 1828, 1829, 1893.*

9 She makes *MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H., First Edition* : Maketh *H. 1816, 1828, 1829*      11 moonshine or shower *MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H., First Edition* :  
 by shine or shower *H. 1816.*

*Between 28-9* Dreams, that made her moan and leap,  
 As on her bed she lay in sleep.

*First Edition : Erased H. 1816 : Not in any MS.*

32 The breezes they were whispering low *S. T. C. (a)* : The breezes they  
 were still also *MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H., First Edition.*      34 But the moss  
 and misletoe *MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H.*

She kneels beneath the huge oak tree,  
And in silence prayeth she.

35

The lady sprang up suddenly,  
The lovely lady, Christabel!  
It moaned as near, as near can be,  
But what it is she cannot tell.—  
On the other side it seems to be,  
Of the huge, broad-breasted, old oak tree.

40

The night is chill; the forest bare;  
Is it the wind that moaneth bleak?  
There is not wind enough in the air  
To move away the ringlet curl  
From the lovely lady's cheek—  
There is not wind enough to twirl  
The one red leaf, the last of its clan,  
That dances as often as dance it can,  
Hanging so light, and hanging so high,  
On the topmost twig that looks up at the sky.

45

Hush, beating heart of Christabel!  
Jesu, Maria, shield her well!  
She folded her arms beneath her cloak,  
And stole to the other side of the oak.  
What sees she there?

50

There she sees a damsel bright,  
Drest in a silken robe of white,  
That shadowy in the moonlight shone:  
The neck that made that white robe wan,  
Her stately neck, and arms were bare;  
Her blue-veined feet unsandal'd were,  
And wildly glittered here and there  
The gems entangled in her hair.

60

65

35 kneels] knelt MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H.      37 sprang] leaps MS. W.,  
S. T. C. (c), S. H., First Edition.      39 can] could H. 1816.      45-7 om.  
MS. W.      52 up] out MS. W., S. H.      54 Jesu Maria MS. W.,  
S. T. C. (c), S. H.

58-66

A damsel bright  
Clad in a silken robe of white,  
Her neck, her feet, her arms were bare,  
And the jewels were tumbled in her hair.  
I guess, &c. MS. W.

60 om. MS. S. T. C.

61-6

Her neck, her feet, her arms were bare,  
And the jewels were tumbled in her hair.  
I guess, &c. S. T. C. (a), S. T. C. (c), S. H.

I guess, 'twas frightful there to see  
 A lady so richly clad as she—  
 Beautiful exceedingly !

Mary mother, save me now !  
 (Said Christabel,) And who art thou ?

The lady strange made answer meet,  
 And her voice was faint and sweet :—  
 Have pity on my sore distress,  
 I scarce can speak for weariness :

Stretch forth thy hand, and have no fear !  
 Said Christabel, How camest thou here ?  
 And the lady, whose voice was faint and sweet,  
 Did thus pursue her answer meet :—

My sire is of a noble line,  
 And my name is Geraldine :  
 Five warriors seized me yestermorn,  
 Me, even me, a maid forlorn :  
 They choked my cries with force and fright,  
 And tied me on a palfrey white.  
 The palfrey was as fleet as wind,

And they rode furiously behind.

**61-6** Her neck, her feet, her arms were bare,  
 And the jewels disorder'd in her hair.

I guess, &c. *First Edition.*

**65** And the jewels were tangled in her hair. *S.T.C. (b).*

[In the Hinves copy (Nov., 1816), ll. 60-5 are inserted in the margin and the two lines 'Her neck . . . her hair' are erased. This addition was included in 1828, 1829, 1834, &c.]

74 scarce can] cannot *H. 1816.* 76 Said Christabel] Alas ! but say *H. 1816.*

**81-3** Five ruffians seized me yestermorn,  
 Me, even me, a maid forlorn ;  
 They chok'd my cries with wicked might.

*MS. W., S.T.C. (a); MS. S.T.C. (c); S.H.*  
 Five warriors, &c. as in the text *S.T.C. (b).*

[Lines 82, 83, 84½ are erased in *H. 1816.* Lines 81-4, 89, 90, which Scott prefixed as a motto to Chapter XI of *The Black Dwarf* (1818), run thus :—

Three ruffians seized me yestermorn,  
 Alas ! a maiden most forlorn ;  
 They choked my cries with wicked might,  
 And bound me on a palfrey white :  
 As sure as Heaven shall pity me,  
 I cannot tell what men they be. *Christabel.*

The motto to Chapter XXIV of *The Betrothed* (1825) is slightly different :—  
 Four Ruffians . . . palfrey white.

They spurred amain, their steeds were white:  
 And once we crossed the shade of night.  
 As sure as Heaven shall rescue me,  
 I have no thought what men they be ; 90  
 Nor do I know how long it is  
 (For I have lain entranced I wis)  
 Since one, the tallest of the five,  
 Took me from the palfrey's back,  
 A weary woman, scarce alive. 95

Some muttered words his comrades spoke :  
 He placed me underneath this oak ;  
 He swore they would return with haste ;  
 Whither they went I cannot tell—  
 I thought I heard, some minutes past, 100  
 Sounds as of a castle bell.  
 Stretch forth thy hand (thus ended she),  
 And help a wretched maid to flee.

Then Christabel stretched forth her hand,  
 And comforted fair Geraldine : 105  
 O well, bright dame ! may you command  
 The service of Sir Leoline ;  
 And gladly our stout chivalry  
 Will he send forth and friends withal  
 To guide and guard you safe and free 110  
 Home to your noble father's hall.

She rose : and forth with steps they passed  
 That strove to be, and were not, fast.

88 once] twice *MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H.*      92 For I have lain in fits,  
*I wis MS. W., S. T. C. (a), S. T. C. (e), S. H., First Edition.* [Text, which  
 follows *S. T. C. (b), H. 1816*, was first adopted in 1828.]      96 comrades]  
*comrade MS. W.*      98 He] They *MS. W.*

106-11      Saying that she should command  
 The service of Sir Leoline ;  
 And straight be convoy'd, free from thrall,  
 Back to her noble father's hall.

*MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H., First Edition.*

[Text, which follows *H. 1816*, was first adopted in 1828.]

112-22      So up she rose and forth they pass'd  
 With hurrying steps yet nothing fast.  
 Her lucky stars the lady blest,  
 And Christabel she sweetly said—  
 All our household are at rest,  
 Each one sleeping in his bed ;

Her gracious stars the lady blest,  
And thus spake on sweet Christabel:  
All our household are at rest,  
The hall as silent as the cell;  
Sir Leoline is weak in health,  
And may not well awakened be,  
But we will move as if in stealth,  
And I beseech your courtesy,  
This night, to share your couch with me.

115

They crossed the moat, and Christabel  
Took the key that fitted well;  
A little door she opened straight,  
All in the middle of the gate;  
The gate that was ironed within and without,  
Where an army in battle array had marched out.  
The lady sank, belike through pain,  
And Christabel with might and main  
Lifted her up, a weary weight,  
Over the threshold of the gate:  
Then the lady rose again,  
And moved, as she were not in pain.

125

130

So free from danger, free from fear,  
They crossed the court: right glad they were.  
And Christabel devoutly cried  
To the lady by her side,  
Praise we the Virgin all divine  
Who hath rescued thee from thy distress!

135

140

Sir Leoline is weak in health,  
And may not awakened be,  
So to my room we'll creep in stealth,  
And you to-night must sleep with me.

*MS. W., S. T. C. (a), S. T. C. (c), S. H.*

[So, too, *First Edition*, with the sole variant, 'And may not well awakened be'.]

114-17

Her smiling stars the lady blest,  
And thus bespeak sweet Christabel:  
All our household is at rest,  
The hall as silent as a cell. *S. T. C. (b).*

[In *H. 1816* ll. 112-22 of the text are inserted in Coleridge's handwriting. Line 113 reads: 'yet were not fast'. Line 122 reads: 'share your bed with me'. In 1828, ll. 117-22 were added to the text, and 'Her gracious stars' (l. 114) was substituted for 'Her lucky stars'.]

137 And Christabel she sweetly cried *MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H.* 139  
Praise we] O praise *MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H.*

Alas, alas ! said Geraldine,  
I cannot speak for weariness.  
So free from danger, free from fear,  
They crossed the court: right glad they were.

Outside her kennel, the mastiff old  
Lay fast asleep, in moonshine cold.  
The mastiff old did not awake,  
Yet she an angry moan did make !  
And what can ail the mastiff bitch ?  
Never till now she uttered yell  
Beneath the eye of Christabel.  
Perhaps it is the owlet's scritch :  
For what can ail the mastiff bitch ?

They passed the hall, that echoes still,  
Pass as lightly as you will !

The brands were flat, the brands were dying,  
Amid their own white ashes lying ;  
But when the lady passed, there came  
A tongue of light, a fit of flame ;  
And Christabel saw the lady's eye,  
And nothing else saw she thereby,  
Save the boss of the shield of Sir Leoline tall,  
Which hung in a murky old niche in the wall.  
O softly tread, said Christabel,  
My father seldom sleepeth well.

Sweet Christabel her feet doth bare,  
And jealous of the listening air  
They steal their way from stair to stair,  
Now in glimmer, and now in gloom,  
And now they pass the Baron's room,  
As still as death, with stifled breath !  
And now have reached her chamber door ;

145 Outside] Beside MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H. 146 Lay fast] Was stretch'd H. 1816. [Not in S. T. C.'s handwriting.] 160 om.

S. T. C. (a). 161 And nothing else she saw thereby MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H. 163 niche] nitch all MSS. and First Edition.

166-9 Sweet Christabel her feet she bares,  
And they are creeping up the stairs,  
Now in glimmer, and now in gloom.

MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H., First Edition.

167 Added in 1828. 171 With stifled breath, as still as death H. 1816. [Not in S. T. C.'s handwriting.]

And now doth Geraldine press down  
The rushes of the chamber floor.

The moon shines dim in the open air,  
And not a moonbeam enters here.

175

But they without its light can see  
The chamber carved so curiously,  
Carved with figures strange and sweet,  
All made out of the carver's brain,  
For a lady's chamber meet:  
The lamp with twofold silver chain  
Is fastened to an angel's feet.

180

The silver lamp burns dead and dim ;  
But Christabel the lamp will trim.

185

She trimmed the lamp, and made it bright,  
And left it swinging to and fro,  
While Geraldine, in wretched plight,  
Sank down upon the floor below.

O weary lady, Geraldine,  
I pray you, drink this cordial wine !  
It is a wine of virtuous powers ;  
My mother made it of wild flowers.

190

And will your mother pity me,  
Who am a maiden most forlorn ?  
Christabel answered—Woe is me !  
She died the hour that I was born.  
I have heard the grey-haired friar tell  
How on her death-bed she did say,  
That she should hear the castle-bell  
Strike twelve upon my wedding-day.  
O mother dear ! that thou wert here !  
I would, said Geraldine, she were !

195

200

173-4 And now they with their feet press down  
The rushes of her chamber floor. *MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H.*  
And now with eager feet press down  
The rushes of her chamber floor.

*First Edition, H. 1816. [Not in S. T. C.'s handwriting.]*

191 cordial] spicy *MS. W., S. T. C. (a), S. T. C. (c), S. H.*

*Between 193-4*

Nay, drink it up, I pray you do,  
Believe me it will comfort you.

*MS. W., S. T. C. (a), S. T. C. (c), S. H.*

[The omission was made in the First Edition.]

But soon with altered voice, said she—  
 ‘Off, wandering mother! Peak and pine!  
 I have power to bid thee flee.’

205

Alas! what ails poor Geraldine?  
 Why stares she with unsettled eye?  
 Can she the bodiless dead espy?  
 And why with hollow voice cries she,  
 ‘Off, woman, off! this hour is mine—  
 Though thou her guardian spirit be,  
 Off, woman, off! ‘tis given to me.’

210

Then Christabel knelt by the lady’s side,  
 And raised to heaven her eyes so blue—  
 Alas! said she, this ghastly ride—  
 Dear lady! it hath wildered you!  
 The lady wiped her moist cold brow,  
 And faintly said, ‘tis over now!’

215

Again the wild-flower wine she drank:  
 Her fair large eyes ‘gan glitter bright,  
 And from the floor whereon she sank,  
 The lofty lady stood upright:  
 She was most beautiful to see,  
 Like a lady of a far countrée.

220

225

And thus the lofty lady spake—  
 ‘All they who live in the upper sky,  
 Do love you, holy Christabel!  
 And you love them, and for their sake  
 And for the good which me befel,  
 Even I in my degree will try,  
 Fair maiden, to requite you well.  
 But now unrobe yourself; for I  
 Must pray, ere yet in bed I lie.’

230

Quoth Christabel, So let it be!  
 And as the lady bade, did she.  
 Her gentle limbs did she undress,  
 And lay down in her loveliness.

235

But through her brain of weal and woe  
 So many thoughts moved to and fro,  
 That vain it were her lids to close;  
 So half-way from the bed she rose,

240

205-10, 212 om. MS. W. 219 And faintly said I’m better now MS. W., S. T. C. (a): I am better now S. T. C. (c), S. H. 225 far] fair MS. W.

And on her elbow did recline  
To look at the lady Geraldine.

Beneath the lamp the lady bowed,  
And slowly rolled her eyes around ;  
Then drawing in her breath aloud,  
Like one that shuddered, she unbound  
The cincture from beneath her breast :  
Her silken robe, and inner vest,  
Dropt to her feet, and full in view,  
Behold ! her bosom and half her side—  
A sight to dream of, not to tell !  
O shield her ! shield sweet Christabel !

Yet Geraldine nor speaks nor stirs ;  
Ah ! what a stricken look was hers !  
Deep from within she seems half-way  
To lift some weight with sick assay,  
And eyes the maid and seeks delay ;  
Then suddenly, as one defied,  
Collects herself in scorn and pride,  
And lay down by the Maiden's side !—  
And in her arms the maid she took,

Ah wel-a-day !

And with low voice and doleful look  
These words did say :

'In the touch of this bosom there worketh a spell,

*Between 252-3 Are lean and old and foul of hue. MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H. 254 And she is to sleep with Christabel. MS. W.: And she is to sleep by Christabel. \*S. T. C. (c), S. H., First Edition: And must she sleep by Christabel. H. 1816 [not in S. T. C.'s handwriting] : And she is alone with Christabel. H. 1816 erased [not in S. T. C.'s handwriting] : And must she sleep with Christabel. H. 1816 erased [not in S. T. C.'s handwriting]. 255-61 om. MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H., First Edition: included in H. 1816. [Not in S. T. C.'s handwriting.] First published in 1828.*

*Between 254 and 263*

She took two paces and a stride,  
And lay down by the maiden's side,  
*MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H., First Edition.*  
She gaz'd upon the maid, ~~she sight'd~~  
~~She took two paces and a stride,~~  
Then  
~~And lay down by the Maiden's side.~~ *H. 1816 erased.*

*265 low] sad MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H.  
S. T. C. (c), S. H.*

*267 this] my MS. W.,*

Which is lord of thy utterance, Christabel !  
 Thou knowest to-night, and wilt know to-morrow,  
 This mark of my shame, this seal of my sorrow ; 270  
     But vainly thou warrest,  
     For this is alone in  
     Thy power to declare,  
     That in the dim forest  
     Thou heard'st a low moaning,275  
 And found'st a bright lady, surpassingly fair ;  
 And didst bring her home with thee in love and in charity,  
 To shield her and shelter her from the damp air.'

## THE CONCLUSION TO PART I

It was a lovely sight to see  
 The lady Christabel, when she280  
 Was praying at the old oak tree.  
     Amid the jaggéd shadows  
     Of mossy leafless boughs,  
     Kneeling in the moonlight,  
     To make her gentle vows ;285  
 Her slender palms together prest,  
 Heaving sometimes on her breast ;  
 Her face resigned to bliss or bale—  
 Her face, oh call it fair not pale,  
 And both blue eyes more bright than clear,290  
 Each about to have a tear.  
  
 With open eyes (ah woe is me !)  
 Asleep, and dreaming fearfully,  
 Fearfully dreaming, yet, I wis,  
 Dreaming that alone, which is—295  
 O sorrow and shame ! Can this be she,  
 The lady, who knelt at the old oak tree ?

270 The mark of my shame, the seal of my sorrow. *MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H.*   277 And didst bring her home with thee, with love and with charity. *MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H.*   278 To shield her, and shelter her, and shelter far from the damp air. *MS. W.*

The Conclusion to Part I] The Conclusion of Book the First *MS. W.:*  
 The Conclusion to Book the First *S. T. C. (c), S. H.*

294 Here in *MS. W.* the handwriting changes. ‘Dreaming’ was written by *S. T. C.*, ‘yet’ by *Mary Hutchinson*.   295 is] is *H. 1816.*   297 who] that *MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H., H. 1816.*

And lo ! the worker of these harms,  
That holds the maiden in her arms,  
Seems to slumber still and mild,  
As a mother with her child.

300

A star hath set, a star hath risen,  
O Geraldine ! since arms of thine  
Have been the lovely lady's prison.  
O Geraldine ! one hour was thine—  
Thou'st had thy will ! By tairn and rill,  
The night-birds all that hour were still.  
But now they are jubilant anew,  
From cliff and tower, tu—whoo ! tu—whoo !  
Tu—whoo ! tu—whoo ! from wood and fell !

305

310

And see ! the lady Christabel  
Gathers herself from out her trance ;  
Her limbs relax, her countenance  
Grows sad and soft ; the smooth thin lids  
Close o'er her eyes ; and tears she sheds—  
Large tears that leave the lashes bright !  
And oft the while she seems to smile  
As infants at a sudden light !

315

Yea, she doth smile, and she doth weep,  
Like a youthful hermitess,  
Beauteous in a wilderness,  
Who, praying always, prays in sleep.  
And, if she move unquietly,  
Perchance, 'tis but the blood so free  
Comes back and tingles in her feet.  
No doubt, she hath a vision sweet.  
What if her guardian spirit 'twere,  
What if she knew her mother near ?  
But this she knows, in joys and woes,  
That saints will aid if men will call :  
For the blue sky bends over all !

320

325

330

1797.

306 Tairn or Tarn (derived by Lye from the Icelandic *Tiorn*, stagnum, palus) is rendered in our dictionaries as synonymous with Mere or Lake ; but it is properly a large Pool or Reservoir in the Mountains, commonly the Feeder of some Mere in the valleys. Tarn Watling and Blellum Tarn, though on lower ground than other Tarns, are yet not exceptions, for both are on elevations, and Blellum Tarn feeds the Wynander Mere.

*Note to S. T. C. (c).*      324 A query is attached to this line H. 1816.

## PART II

Each matin bell, the Baron saith,  
Knells us back to a world of death.  
These words Sir Leoline first said,  
When he came to his old haunts.

When he rose and found his lady dead : 335  
These words Sir Leoline will say  
Many a morn to his dying day !

And hence the custom and law began  
That still at dawn the sacristan,  
Who duly pulls the heavy bell,  
Five and forty beads must tell  
Between each stroke—a warning knell,  
Which not a soul can choose but hear  
From Bratha Head to Wyndermere.

Saith Bracy the bard, So let it knell !  
And let the drowsy sacristan  
Still count as slowly as he can !  
There is no lack of such, I ween,

As well fill up the space between.  
In Langdale Pike and Witch's Lair,350  
And Dungeon-ghyll so foully rent,  
With ropes of rock and bells of air  
Three sinful sextons' ghosts are pent,  
Who all give back, one after t'other,  
The death-note to their living brother;355  
And oft too, by the knell offended,  
Just as their one! two! three! is ended,  
The devil mocks the doleful tale  
With a merry peal from Borodale.

The air is still! through mist and cloud  
That merry peal comes ringing loud ;  
And Geraldine shakes off her dread,  
And rises lightly from the bed ;  
Puts on her silken vestments white,  
And tricks her hair in lovely plight,

Part II] Book the Second *MS. W.*: Christabel Book the Second *S. T. C.*  
c), *S. H.*

344 Wyndermere] Wyn'dermere *MS. W.*, *S. T. C. (c)*, *S. H.*, *First Edition*.

353 sinful] simple MS. W. 354 A query is attached to this line H. 1816

356 the] their *MS. W.*, *S. T. C. (c)*, *S. H.* 359 Borodale] Borrowdale

*MS. W., S. H., First Edition, 1828, 1829 : Borrodale S. T. C. (c).* 360 The

air is still through many a cloud *MS. W., S.T.C. (c), S.H.* 363 the]

her MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S.H. 364 silken] simple MS. W.

And nothing doubting of her spell  
 Awakens the lady Christabel.  
 'Sleep you, sweet lady Christabel ?  
 I trust that you have rested well.'

And Christabel awoke and spied  
 The same who lay down by her side—  
 O rather say, the same whom she  
 Raised up beneath the old oak tree !  
 Nay, fairer yet ! and yet more fair !  
 For she belike hath drunken deep  
 Of all the blessedness of sleep !  
 And while she spake, her looks, her air  
 Such gentle thankfulness declare,  
 That (so it seemed) her girded vests  
 Grew tight beneath her heaving breasts.  
 'Sure I have sinn'd !' said Christabel,  
 'Now heaven be praised if all be well !'  
 And in low faltering tones, yet sweet,  
 Did she the lofty lady greet  
 With such perplexity of mind  
 As dreams too lively leave behind.

So quickly she rose, and quickly arrayed  
 Her maiden limbs, and having prayed  
 That He, who on the cross did groan,  
 Might wash away her sins unknown,  
 She forthwith led fair Geraldine  
 To meet her sire, Sir Leoline.

The lovely maid and the lady tall  
 Are pacing both into the hall,  
 And pacing on through page and groom,  
 Enter the Baron's presence-room.

The Baron rose, and while he prest  
 His gentle daughter to his breast,  
 With cheerful wonder in his eyes  
 The lady Geraldine espies,  
 And gave such welcome to the same,  
 As might beseem so bright a dame !

But when he heard the lady's tale,  
 And when she told her father's name,  
 Why waxed Sir Leoline so pale,  
 Murmuring o'er the name again,  
 Lord Roland de Vaux of Tryermaine ?

370

375

380

385

390

395

400

405

Alas ! they had been friends in youth ;  
 But whispering tongues can poison truth ;  
 And constancy lives in realms above ;  
 And life is thorny ; and youth is vain ;  
 And to be wroth with one we love  
 Doth work like madness in the brain.  
 And thus it chanced, as I divine,  
 With Roland and Sir Leoline.

410

Each spake words of high disdain  
 And insult to his heart's best brother :  
 They parted—ne'er to meet again !  
 But never either found another  
 To free the hollow heart from paining—  
 They stood aloof, the scars remaining,  
 Like cliffs which had been rent asunder ;  
 A dreary sea now flows between ;—  
 But neither heat, nor frost, nor thunder,  
 Shall wholly do away, I ween,  
 The marks of that which once hath been.

415

Sir Leoline, a moment's space,  
 Stood gazing on the damsel's face :  
 And the youthful Lord of Tryermaine  
 Came back upon his heart again.

425

O then the Baron forgot his age,  
 His noble heart swelled high with rage ;  
 He swore by the wounds in Jesu's side  
 He would proclaim it far and wide,  
 With trump and solemn heraldry,  
 That they, who thus had wronged the dame,  
 Were base as spotted infamy !  
 'And if they dare deny the same,  
 My herald shall appoint a week,  
 And let the recreant traitors seek  
 My tourney court—that there and then  
 I may dislodge their reptile souls  
 From the bodies and forms of men !'  
 He spake : his eye in lightning rolls !  
 For the lady was ruthlessly seized ; and he kenned  
 In the beautiful lady the child of his friend !

430

435

440

445

414 thus] so MS. *Letter to Poole, Feb. 1813.* 418 They] And MS. W.,  
 S. T. C. (c), S. H. 419 But] And MS. W.

424-5 But neither frost nor heat nor thunder  
 Can wholly, &c., MS. *Letter to Poole, Feb. 1813.*

441 tourney] *Tournay MS. W., S. T. C. (c), First Edition.*

And now the tears were on his face,  
 And fondly in his arms he took  
 Fair Geraldine, who met the embrace,  
 Prolonging it with joyous look.  
 Which when she viewed, a vision fell  
 Upon the soul of Christabel,  
 The vision of fear, the touch and pain !  
 She shrunk and shuddered, and saw again—  
 (Ah, woe is me ! Was it for thee,  
 Thou gentle maid ! such sights to see ?)

450

455

Again she saw that bosom old,  
 Again she felt that bosom cold,  
 And drew in her breath with a hissing sound :  
 Whereat the Knight turned wildly round,  
 And nothing saw, but his own sweet maid  
 With eyes upraised, as one that prayed.

460

The touch, the sight, had passed away,  
 And in its stead that vision blest,  
 Which comforted her after-rest  
 While in the lady's arms she lay,  
 Had put a rapture in her breast,  
 And on her lips and o'er her eyes  
 Spread smiles like light !

465

With new surprise,  
 'What ails then my belovéd child ?'  
 The Baron said—His daughter mild  
 Made answer, 'All will yet be well !'  
 I ween, she had no power to tell  
 Aught else: so mighty was the spell.

470

Yet he, who saw this Geraldine,  
 Had deemed her sure a thing divine :  
 Such sorrow with such grace she blended,  
 As if she feared she had offended  
 Sweet Christabel, that gentle maid !  
 And with such lowly tones she prayed  
 She might be sent without delay  
 Home to her father's mansion.

475

'Nay !

453 The vision foul of fear and pain *MS. W.*, *S. T. C. (a)*, *S. T. C. (c)*, *S. H.*: The vision of fear, the touch of pain *S. T. C. (b)*. 463 The pang, the sight was passed away *S. T. C. (a)*: The pang, the sight, had passed away *MS. W.*, *S. T. C. (c)*, *S. H.*

Nay, by my soul!' said Leoline.

'Ho! Bracy the bard, the charge be thine!

Go thou, with music sweet and loud,

485

And take two steeds with trappings proud,

And take the youth whom thou lov'st best

To bear thy harp, and learn thy song,

And clothe you both in solemn vest,

And over the mountains haste along,

490

Lest wandering folk, that are abroad,

Detain you on the valley road.

'And when he has crossed the Irthing flood,

My merry bard! he hastes, he hastes

Up Knorren Moor, through Halegarth Wood,

495

And reaches soon that castle good

Which stands and threatens Scotland's wastes.

'Bard Bracy! bard Bracy! your horses are fleet,

Ye must ride up the hall, your music so sweet,

More loud than your horses' echoing feet!

500

And loud and loud to Lord Roland call,

Thy daughter is safe in Langdale hall!

Thy beautiful daughter is safe and free—

Sir Leoline greets thee thus through me!

He bids thee come without delay

505

With all thy numerous array

And take thy lovely daughter home:

And he will meet thee on the way

With all his numerous array

White with their panting palfreys' foam:

510

And, by mine honour! I will say,

That I repent me of the day

When I spake words of fierce disdain

To Roland de Vaux of Tryermaine!—

—For since that evil hour hath flown,

515

Many a summer's sun hath shone;

Yet ne'er found I a friend again

Like Roland de Vaux of Tryermaine.'

The lady fell, and clasped his knees,

Her face upraised, her eyes o'erflowing;

520

And Bracy replied, with faltering voice,

His gracious Hail on all bestowing!—

490 om. MS. W.      503 beautiful] beauteous MS. W.      507 take]  
fetch MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H.      516 Many a summer's suns have shone  
MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H.

'Thy words, thou sire of Christabel,  
Are sweeter than my harp can tell ;  
Yet might I gain a boon of thee,  
This day my journey should not be,  
So strange a dream hath come to me,  
That I had vowed with music loud  
To clear yon wood from thing unblest,  
Warned by a vision in my rest !' 525

For in my sleep I saw that dove,  
That gentle bird, whom thou dost love,  
And call'st by thy own daughter's name—  
Sir Leoline ! I saw the same  
Fluttering, and uttering fearful moan,  
Among the green herbs in the forest alone. 530

Which when I saw and when I heard,  
I wonder'd what might ail the bird ;  
For nothing near it could I see,  
Save the grass and green herbs underneath the old tree.

'And in my dream methought I went  
To search out what might there be found ;  
And what the sweet bird's trouble meant,  
That thus lay fluttering on the ground.  
I went and peered, and could descry 535

No cause for her distressful cry ;  
But yet for her dear lady's sake  
I stooped, methought, the dove to take,  
When lo ! I saw a bright green snake  
Coiled around its wings and neck. 545

Green as the herbs on which it couched,  
Close by the dove's its head it crouched ;  
And with the dove it heaves and stirs,  
Swelling its neck as she swelled hers !  
I woke ; it was the midnight hour, 555

The clock was echoing in the tower ;  
But though my slumber was gone by,  
This dream it would not pass away—  
It seems to live upon my eye !  
And thence I vowed this self-same day 560

With music strong and saintly song  
To wander through the forest bare,  
Lest aught unholy loiter there.'

559 seems] seem'd MS. W., S. T. C. (c). 560 vowed] swore MS. W.  
563 loiter] wander MS. W.

Thus Bracy said: the Baron, the while,  
Half-listening heard him with a smile;                               565  
Then turned to Lady Geraldine,  
His eyes made up of wonder and love;  
And said in courtly accents fine,  
‘Sweet maid, Lord Roland’s beauteous dove,  
With arms more strong than harp or song,                               570  
Thy sire and I will crush the snake!’  
He kissed her forehead as he spake,  
And Geraldine in maiden wise  
Casting down her large bright eyes,  
With blushing cheek and courtesy fine                               575  
She turned her from Sir Leoline;  
Softly gathering up her train,  
That o’er her right arm fell again;  
And folded her arms across her chest,  
And couched her head upon her breast,                               580  
And looked askance at Christabel—  
Jesu, Maria, shield her well!

A snake’s small eye blinks dull and shy;  
And the lady’s eyes they shrunk in her head,  
Each shrunk up to a serpent’s eye,                               585  
And with somewhat of malice, and more of dread,  
At Christabel she looked askance!—  
One moment—and the sight was fled!  
But Christabel in dizzy trance  
Stumbling on the unsteady ground                                       590  
Shuddered aloud, with a hissing sound;  
And Geraldine again turned round,  
And like a thing, that sought relief,  
Full of wonder and full of grief,  
She rolled her large bright eyes divine                               595  
Wildly on Sir Leoline.

The maid, alas! her thoughts are gone,  
She nothing sees—no sight but one!  
The maid, devoid of guile and sin,  
I know not how, in fearful wise,                                       600  
So deeply had she drunken in  
That look, those shrunken serpent eyes,

582 Jesu, Maria] Jesu Maria MS. W.  
hissing sound MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H.

591 Shuddered aloud with  
596 on] o’er MS. W.

That all her features were resigned  
 To this sole image in her mind :  
 And passively did imitate  
 That look of dull and treacherous hate !  
 And thus she stood, in dizzy trance,  
 Still picturing that look askance  
 With forced unconscious sympathy  
 Full before her father's view——  
 As far as such a look could be  
 In eyes so innocent and blue !

605

And when the trance was o'er, the maid  
 Paused awhile, and inly prayed :  
 Then falling at the Baron's feet,  
 'By my mother's soul do I entreat  
 That thou this woman send away !'  
 She said : and more she could not say :  
 For what she knew she could not tell,  
 O'er-mastered by the mighty spell.

610

615

Why is thy cheek so wan and wild,  
 Sir Leoline ? Thy only child  
 Lies at thy feet, thy joy, thy pride,  
 So fair, so innocent, so mild ;  
 The same, for whom thy lady died !  
 O by the pangs of her dear mother  
 Think thou no evil of thy child !  
 For her, and thee, and for no other,  
 She prayed the moment ere she died :  
 Prayed that the babe for whom she died,  
 Might prove her dear lord's joy and pride !  
 That prayer her deadly pangs beguiled,  
 Sir Leoline !  
 And wouldest thou wrong thy only child,  
 Her child and thine ?

625

630

635

Within the Baron's heart and brain  
 If thoughts, like these, had any share,  
 They only swelled his rage and pain,  
 And did but work confusion there.  
 His heart was cleft with pain and rage,  
 His cheeks they quivered, his eyes were wild,

640

613 And] But MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H., First Edition. 615 her Father's Feet MS. W., S. T. C. (c), S. H., First Edition, 1828. 620 the] that MS. W. 639 but] not MS. W.

Dishonoured thus in his old age ;  
 Dishonoured by his only child,  
 And all his hospitality  
 To the wronged daughter of his friend 645  
 By more than woman's jealousy  
 Brought thus to a disgraceful end—  
 He rolled his eye with stern regard  
 Upon the gentle minstrel bard,  
 And said in tones abrupt, austere—  
 'Why, Bracy ! dost thou loiter here ?  
 I bade thee hence !' The bard obeyed ;  
 And turning from his own sweet maid,  
 The agéd knight, Sir Leoline,  
 Led forth the lady Geraldine ! 650  
 1800.

## THE CONCLUSION TO PART II

A little child, a limber elf,  
 Singing, dancing to itself,  
 A fairy thing with red round cheeks,  
 That always finds, and never seeks,  
 Makes such a vision to the sight 660  
 As fills a father's eyes with light ;  
 And pleasures flow in so thick and fast  
 Upon his heart, that he at last  
 Must needs express his love's excess  
 With words of unmeant bitterness. 665  
 Perhaps 'tis pretty to force together  
 Thoughts so all unlike each other ;  
 To mutter and mock a broken charm,  
 To dally with wrong that does no harm.  
 Perhaps 'tis tender too and pretty 670  
 At each wild word to feel within

645 wronged] insulted *MS. W.*, *S. T. C. (c)*, *S. H.*, *First Edition, 1828, 1829*.  
 The Conclusion to Part II] Not in any of the MSS. or in *S. H.* For the first manuscript version see *Letter to Southey, May 6, 1801*. (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 355.)

659 'finds' and 'seeks' are italicized in the letters.

660-1 Doth make a vision to the sight

Which fills a father's eyes with light. *Letter, 1801*.

664 In *H. 1816* there is a direction (not in *S. T. C.*'s handwriting) to print line 664 as two lines. 665 In words of wrong and bitterness. *Letter, 1801*.

A sweet recoil of love and pity.  
 And what, if in a world of sin  
 (O sorrow and shame should this be true !)  
 Such giddiness of heart and brain  
 Comes seldom save from rage and pain,  
 So talks as it's most used to do.

675

1801.

LINES TO W. L.<sup>1</sup>

WHILE HE SANG A SONG TO PURCELL'S MUSIC

WHILE my young cheek retains its healthful hues,  
 And I have many friends who hold me dear,  
 L——<sup>2</sup>! methinks, I would not often hear  
 Such melodies as thine, lest I should lose  
 All memory of the wrongs and sore distress      5  
 For which my miserable brethren weep!  
 But should uncomforted misfortunes steep  
 My daily bread in tears and bitterness;  
 And if at Death's dread moment I should lie  
 With no belovéd face at my bed-side,      10  
 To fix the last glance of my closing eye,  
 Methinks such strains, breathed by my angel-guide,  
 Would make me pass the cup of anguish by,  
 Mix with the blest, nor know that I had died!

5

10

1797.

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Annual Anthology* for 1800 : included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. A MS. is extant dated Sept. 14, 1797.

*Lines to W. L.*—Title] To Mr. William Linley MS. 1797: Sonnet XII, To W. L. —<sup>2</sup>! Esq., while he sung &c. *An. Anth.* : To W. L. Esq. &c. S. L. 1828, 1829: Lines to W. Linley, Esq. 1893.

<sup>3</sup> L——<sup>2</sup>!] Linley ! MS. 1893.      10 at] by *An. Anth.*      12 Methinks] O God ! *An. Anth.*

FIRE, FAMINE, AND SLAUGHTER<sup>1</sup>

## A WAR ECLOGUE

*The Scene a desolated Tract in La Vendée. FAMINE is discovered lying on the ground; to her enter FIRE and SLAUGHTER.*

*Fam.* SISTERS! sisters! who sent you here?

*Slau.* [to *Fire*]. I will whisper it in her ear.

*Fire.* No! no! no!

Spirits hear what spirits tell:

'Twill make a holiday in Hell.

No! no! no!

5

Myself, I named him once below,

And all the souls, that damnéd be,

Leaped up at once in anarchy,

Clapped their hands and danced for glee.

10

They no longer heeded me;

But laughed to hear Hell's burning rafters

Unwillingly re-echo laughters!

No! no! no!

Spirits hear what spirits tell:

15

'Twill make a holiday in Hell!

*Fam.* Whisper it, sister! so and so!

In a dark hint, soft and slow.

*Slau.* Letters four do form his name—

And who sent you?

*Both.* The same! the same!

20

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, January 8, 1798: included in *Annual Anthology*, 1800, and (with an Apologetic Preface, vide Appendices) in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, 1829, and 1834. The poem was probably written in 1796. See *Watchman, passim*.

*Fire, Famine, &c.—Title]* Scene: A depopulated Tract in La Vendée. Famine is discovered stretched on the ground; to her enter Slaughter and Fire *M. P.*, Jan. 8, 1798.

*2 SLAUGHTER.* I will name him in your ear. *M. P.* 5 a] an all editions to 1834. 11 me] me *M. P.*

16 a] an all editions to 1834.

17-18 *FAMINE.* Then sound it not, yet let me know;

Darkly hint it—soft and low! *M. P.*

In a dark hint, soft and low. *An. Anth.*

19 Four letters form his name. *M. P.* 20 *Both]* *FAMINE MP.*

*Slau.* He came by stealth, and unlocked my den,  
And I have drunk the blood since then  
Of thrice three hundred thousand men.

*Both.* Who bade you do 't?

*Slau.* The same! the same!  
Letters four do form his name. 25  
He let me loose, and cried Halloo!  
To him alone the praise is due.

*Fam.* Thanks, sister, thanks! the men have bled,  
Their wives and their children faint for bread.  
I stood in a swampy field of battle; 30  
With bones and skulls I made a rattle,  
To frighten the wolf and carrion-crow  
And the homeless dog—but they would not go.  
So off I flew: for how could I bear  
To see them gorge their dainty fare? 35  
I heard a groan and a peevish squall,  
And through the chink of a cottage-wall—  
Can you guess what I saw there?

*Both.* Whisper it, sister! in our ear.

*Fam.* A baby beat its dying mother: 40  
I had starved the one and was starving the other!

*Both.* Who bade you do 't?

*Fam.* The same! the same!  
Letters four do form his name.  
He let me loose, and cried, Halloo!  
To him alone the praise is due. 45

*Fire.* Sisters! I from Ireland came!  
Hedge and corn-fields all on flame,  
I triumph'd o'er the setting sun!  
And all the while the work was done,  
On as I strode with my huge strides, 50  
I flung back my head and I held my sides,  
It was so rare a piece of fun  
To see the sweltered cattle run

22-3 And I have spill'd the blood since then  
Of thrice ten hundred thousand men. M. P.

22 drunk] drank *An. Anth.*, S. L. 1828, 1829. 24 Both] FIRE and FAMINE  
M. P. 25 Four letters form his name. M. P. 29 Their wives  
and children M. P. 32 and the carrion crow M. P., *An. Anth.* 39  
Both] SLAUGHTER and FIRE M. P. 42 Both] SLAUGHTER and FIRE M. P.  
43 Four letters form his name. M. P. 47 Hedge] Huts M. P. 48  
om. *An. Anth.* 49 Halloo! Halloo! the work was done *An. Anth.*  
50 As on I strode with monstrous strides M. P.: And on as I strode with  
my great strides *An. Anth.* 51 and held M. P., *An. Anth.*

With uncouth gallop through the night,  
Scared by the red and noisy light! 55  
By the light of his own blazing cot  
Was many a naked Rebel shot:  
The house-stream met the flame and hissed,  
While crash! fell in the roof, I wist,  
On some of those old bed-rid nurses,  
That deal in discontent and curses. 60

*Both.* Who bade you do't?

*Fire.* The same! the same!  
Letters four do form his name.  
He let me loose, and cried Halloo!  
To him alone the praise is due. 65

*All.* He let us loose, and cried Halloo!  
How shall we yield him honour due?

*Fam.* Wisdom comes with lack of food.  
I'll gnaw, I'll gnaw the multitude,  
Till the cup of rage o'erbrim: 70  
They shall seize him and his brood—

*Slaue.* They shall tear him limb from limb!

*Fire.* O thankless beldames and untrue!  
And is this all that you can do  
For him, who did so much for you? 75  
Ninety months he, by my troth!  
Hath richly catered for you both;

54 through] all M.P. 58 flame] fire M.P.: flames *An. Anth.*  
59 While crash the roof fell in I wish M.P. 62 Both] SLAUGHTER and  
FAMINE M.P. 63 Four letters form his name. M.P. 65 How shall  
I give him honour due? M.P. 67 we] I M.P. 71 and] of M.P.

75 foll. For him that did so much for you.

[To Slaughter.

For *you* he turn'd the dust to mud  
With his fellow creatures' blood!

[To Famine.

And hunger scorch'd as many more,  
To make *your* cup of joy run o'er.

[To Both.

Full ninety moons, he by my troth!  
Hath richly cater'd for you both!  
And in an hour would you repay  
An eight years' debt? Away! away!  
I alone am faithful! I  
Cling to him everlastingly.

LABERIUS. M.P.

And in an hour would you repay  
 An eight years' work?—Away! away!  
 I alone am faithful! I  
 Cling to him everlastingly.

1798.

80

FROST AT MIDNIGHT<sup>1</sup>

THE Frost performs its secret ministry,  
 Unhelped by any wind. The owlet's cry  
 Came loud—and hark, again! loud as before.  
 The inmates of my cottage, all at rest,  
 Have left me to that solitude, which suits  
 Abstruser musings: save that at my side  
 My cradled infant slumbers peacefully.  
 'Tis calm indeed! so calm, that it disturbs  
 And vexes meditation with its strange  
 And extreme silentness. Sea, hill, and wood,  
 This populous village! Sea, and hill, and wood,  
 With all the numberless goings-on of life,  
 Inaudible as dreams! the thin blue flame  
 Lies on my low-burnt fire, and quivers not;  
 Only that film,<sup>2</sup> which fluttered on the grate,  
 Still flutters there, the sole unquiet thing.  
 Methinks, its motion in this hush of nature  
 Gives it dim sympathies with me who live,  
 Making it a companionable form,  
 Whose puny flaps and freaks the idling Spirit

5

10

15

20

<sup>1</sup> First published in a quarto pamphlet 'printed by Johnson in S. Paul's Churchyard, 1798': included in *Poetical Register*, 1808–9 (1812): in *Fears in Solitude*, &c., printed by Law and Gilbert, (?) 1812: in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

<sup>2</sup> Only that film. In all parts of the kingdom these films are called strangers and supposed to portend the arrival of some absent friend. 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R.

*Below 81 1798] 1796 S. L. 1828, 1829, and 1834.*

*Between 19–25*

With which I can hold commune. Idle thought!  
 But still the living spirit in our frame,  
 That loves not to behold a lifeless thing,  
 Transfuses into all its own delights,  
 Its own volition, sometimes with deep faith  
 And sometimes with fantastic playfulness.

By its own moods interprets, every where  
 Echo or mirror seeking of itself,  
 And makes a toy of Thought.

25

But O ! how oft,  
 How oft, at school, with most believing mind,  
 Presageful, have I gazed upon the bars,  
 To watch that fluttering *stranger*! and as oft  
 With unclosed lids, already had I dreamt  
 Of my sweet birth-place, and the old church-tower,  
 Whose bells, the poor man's only music, rang  
 From morn to evening, all the hot Fair-day,  
 So sweetly, that they stirred and haunted me  
 With a wild pleasure, falling on mine ear  
 Most like articulate sounds of things to come !  
 So gazed I, till the soothing things, I dreamt,  
 Lulled me to sleep, and sleep prolonged my dreams !      35  
 And so I brooded all the following morn,  
 Awed by the stern preceptor's face, mine eye  
 Fixed with mock study on my swimming book :  
 Save if the door half opened, and I snatched  
 A hasty glance, and still my heart leaped up,      40

35

Ah me ! amus'd by no such curious toys  
 Of the self-watching subtilizing mind,  
 How often in my early school-boy days  
 With most believing superstitious wish.      40.

With which I can hold commune : haply hence,  
 That still the living spirit in our frame,  
 Which loves not to behold a lifeless thing,  
 Transfuses into all things its own Will,  
 And its own pleasures ; sometimes with deep faith,  
 And sometimes with a wilful playfulness  
 That stealing pardon from our common sense  
 Smiles, as self-scornful, to disarm the scorn  
 For these wild reliques of our childish Thought,  
 That flit about, oft go, and oft return  
 Not uninvited.

40

Ah there was a time,  
 When oft amused by no such subtle toys  
 Of the self-watching mind, a child at school,  
 With most believing superstitious wish. P. R.

*Between 20-4*

To which the living spirit in our frame,  
 That loves not to behold a lifeless thing,  
 Transfuses its own pleasures, its own will. S. L. 1828.

26 To watch the *stranger* there ! and oft belike 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R. 27 had] have  
 P. R. 32 wild] sweet S. L. (for sweet read wild. Errata, S. L., p. [xii]).

For still I hoped to see the *stranger's* face,  
Townsmen, or aunt, or sister more beloved,  
My play-mate when we both were clothed alike!

Dear Babe, that sleepest cradled by my side,  
Whose gentle breathings, heard in this deep calm,      45  
Fill up the intersperséd vacancies  
And momentary pauses of the thought!  
My babe so beautiful! it thrills my heart  
With tender gladness, thus to look at thee,  
And think that thou shalt learn far other lore,      50  
And in far other scenes! For I was reared  
In the great city, pent 'mid cloisters dim,  
And saw nought lovely but the sky and stars.  
But *thou*, my babe! shalt wander like a breeze  
By lakes and sandy shores, beneath the crags      55  
Of ancient mountain, and beneath the clouds,  
Which image in their bulk both lakes and shores  
And mountain crags: so shalt thou see and hear  
The lovely shapes and sounds intelligible  
Of that eternal language, which thy God      60  
Utters, who from eternity doth teach  
Himself in all, and all things in himself.  
Great universal Teacher! he shall mould  
Thy spirit, and by giving make it ask.

Therefore all seasons shall be sweet to thee,  
Whether the summer clothe the general earth  
With greenness, or the redbreast sit and sing  
Betwixt the tufts of snow on the bare branch  
Of mossy apple-tree, while the nigh thatch      65  
Smokes in the sun-thaw; whether the eave-drops fall  
Heard only in the trances of the blast,  
Or if the secret ministry of frost  
Shall hang them up in silent icicles,  
Quietly shining to the quiet Moon.      70

*February, 1798.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> The date is omitted in 1829 and in 1834.

45 deep] dead 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R., S. L. (for dead read deep. *Errata*, S. L., p. [xii]).  
46 Fill] Fill'd S. L. (for Fill'd read Fill. *Errata*, S. L., p. [xii]).      48  
thrills] fills 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R., S. L. (for fills read thrills. *Errata*, S. L., p. [xii]).  
67 redbreast] redbreasts 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R.      69 the nigh] all the 4<sup>o</sup>.      71  
trances] traces S. L. (for traces read trances. *Errata*, S. L., p. [xii]).

72-end      Or whether the secret ministry of cold  
Shall hang them up in silent icicles,

FRANCE: AN ODE<sup>1</sup>

## I

YE Clouds! that far above me float and pause,  
 Whose pathless march no mortal may controul!  
 YE Ocean-Waves! that, wheresoe'er ye roll,  
 Yield homage only to eternal laws!

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, April 16, 1798: included in quarto pamphlet published by J. Johnson, 1798: reprinted in *Morning Post*, Oct. 14, 1802: included in *Poetical Register* for 1808-9 (1812); in *Fears in Solitude, &c.*, printed by Law and Gilbert, (?) 1812; in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. Lines 85, 98 are quoted from 'France, a Palinodia', in *Biog. Lit.*, 1817, i. 195. To the first *Morning Post* version (1798) an editorial note was prefixed:—

## ORIGINAL POETRY.

The following excellent Ode will be in unison with the feelings of every friend to Liberty and foe to Oppression; of all who, admiring the French Revolution, detest and deplore the conduct of France towards Switzerland. It is very satisfactory to find so zealous and steady an advocate for Freedom as Mr. COLERIDGE concur with us in condemning the conduct of France towards the Swiss Cantons. Indeed his concurrence is not singular; we know of no Friend to Liberty who is not of his opinion. What we most admire is the *avowal* of his sentiments, and public censure of the unprincipled and atrocious conduct of France. The Poem itself is written with great energy. The second, third, and fourth stanzas contain some of the most vigorous lines we have ever read. The lines in the fourth stanza:—

'To scatter rage and trait'rous guilt  
 Where Peace her jealous home had built,'

to the end of the stanza are particularly expressive and beautiful.

To the second *Morning Post* version (1802) a note and Argument were prefixed:—

The following ODE was first published in this paper (in the beginning of the year 1798) in a less perfect state. The present state of France and

Quietly shining to the quiet moon,  
 Like those, my babe! which ere tomorrow's warmth  
 Have capp'd their sharp keen points with pendulous drops,  
 Will catch thine eye, and with their novelty  
 Suspend thy little soul; then make thee shout,  
 And stretch and flutter from thy mother's arms  
 As thou wouldest fly for very eagerness. <sup>4<sup>o</sup>.</sup>

*France—Title]* The Recantation: an Ode. By S. T. Coleridge. 1798.

<sup>1</sup> and] or 1802.      <sup>2</sup> Veering your pathless march without controul  
 1802.

Ye Woods ! that listen to the night-birds singing,  
     Midway the smooth and perilous slope reclined,  
     Save when your own imperious branches swinging,  
         Have made a solemn music of the wind !  
     Where, like a man beloved of God,  
     Through glooms, which never woodman trod,  
         How oft, pursuing fancies holy,  
     My moonlight way o'er flowering weeds I wound,  
         Inspired, beyond the guess of folly,  
     By each rude shape and wild unconquerable sound !  
     O ye loud Waves ! and O ye Forests high !  
         And O ye Clouds that far above me soared !  
     Thou rising Sun ! thou blue rejoicing Sky !  
         Yea, every thing that is and will be free !  
     Bear witness for me, wheresoe'er ye be,  
         With what deep worship I have still adored  
             The spirit of divinest Liberty.

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Switzerland give it so peculiar an interest at the present time that we wished to re-publish it and accordingly have procured from the Author a corrected copy.

#### ARGUMENT.

*First Stanza.* An invocation to those objects in Nature the contemplation of which had inspired the Poet with a devotional love of Liberty. *Second Stanza.* The exultation of the Poet at the commencement of the French Revolution, and his unqualified abhorrence of the Alliance against the Republic. *Third Stanza.* The blasphemies and horrors during the domination of the Terrorists regarded by the Poet as a transient storm, and as the natural consequence of the former despotism and of the foul superstition of Popery. Reason, indeed, began to suggest many apprehensions ; yet still the Poet struggled to retain the hope that France would make conquests by no other means than by presenting to the observation of Europe a people more happy and better instructed than under other forms of Government. *Fourth Stanza.* Switzerland, and the Poet's recantation. *Fifth Stanza.* An address to Liberty, in which the Poet expresses his conviction that those feelings and that grand *ideal* of Freedom which the mind attains by its contemplation of its individual nature, and of the sublime surrounding objects (see Stanza the First) do not belong to men, as a society, nor can possibly be either gratified or realised, under any form of human government ; but belong to the individual man, so far as he is pure, and inflamed with the love and adoration of God in Nature.'

5 night-birds] night bird's 1798, 4<sup>o</sup>, 1802 : night-birds' S. L., 1828, 1829.  
 6 slope] steep 1798, 4<sup>o</sup>, 1802, P. R.      12 way] path 1802.

## II

When France in wrath her giant-limbs upreared,  
 And with that oath, which smote air, earth, and sea,  
 Stamped her strong foot and said she would be free,  
 Bear witness for me, how I hoped and feared ! 25  
 With what a joy my lofty gratulation  
     Unawed I sang, amid a slavish band :  
 And when towhelm the disenchanted nation,  
     Like fiends embattled by a wizard's wand,  
     The Monarchs marched in evil day, 30  
     And Britain joined the dire array ;  
 Though dear her shores and circling ocean,  
 Though many friendships, many youthful loves  
     Had swoln the patriot emotion  
 And flung a magic light o'er all her hills and groves ; 35  
 Yet still my voice, unaltered, sang defeat  
     To all that braved the tyrant-quelling lance,  
 And shame too long delayed and vain retreat !  
 For ne'er, O Liberty ! with partial aim  
 I dimmed thy light or damped thy holy flame ; 40  
     But blessed the paeans of delivered France,  
 And hung my head and wept at Britain's name.

## III

'And what,' I said, 'though Blasphemy's loud scream  
 With that sweet music of deliverance strove !  
 Though all the fierce and drunken passions wove 45  
 A dance more wild than e'er was maniac's dream !  
 Ye storms, that round the dawning East assembled,  
 The Sun was rising, though ye hid his light !'  
 And when, to soothe my soul, that hoped and trembled,  
 The dissonance ceased, and all seemed calm and bright ; 50  
     When France her front deep-scarr'd and gory  
     Concealed with clustering wreaths of glory ;

23 smote air, earth, and sea] smote earth, air, and sea 1798, 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R. :  
 shook earth, air, and sea 1802.                          24 foot] feet 1798.                  26 lofty]  
 eager 1802.                          27 sang] sung 1798, 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R.                  30 marched] mov'd  
 1802.                          34 the] that 1802.                  35 flung] spread 1802.                  41 But] I 1802.  
 44 that sweet music] those sweet Pæans 1802.                  46 e'er was] ever 1798,  
 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R.                  51 deep-scarr'd] deep-scar'd 1798, 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R., S. L.

When, insupportably advancing,  
Her arm made mockery of the warrior's ramp ;  
While timid looks of fury glancing,  
Domestic treason, crushed beneath her fatal stamp,  
Writhed like a wounded dragon in his gore ;  
Then I reproached my fears that would not flee ;  
'And soon,' I said, 'shall Wisdom teach her lore  
In the low huts of them that toil and groan !'  
And, conquering by her happiness alone,  
Shall France compel the nations to be free,  
Till Love and Joy look round, and call the Earth their own.' 60

## IV

Forgive me, Freedom ! O forgive those dreams !  
I hear thy voice, I hear thy loud lament,  
From bleak Helvetia's icy caverns sent—65  
I hear thy groans upon her blood-stained streams !  
Heroes, that for your peaceful country perished,  
And ye that, fleeing, spot your mountain-snows  
With bleeding wounds ; forgive me, that I cherished  
One thought that ever blessed your cruel foes ! 70  
To scatter rage, and traitorous guilt,  
Where Peace her jealous home had built ;  
A patriot-race to disinherit  
Of all that made their stormy wilds so dear ;75  
And with inexpiable spirit  
To taint the bloodless freedom of the mountaineer—  
O France, that modest Heaven, adulterous, blind,  
And patriot only in pernicious toils !  
Are these thy boasts, Champion of human kind ? 80  
To mix with Kings in the low lust of sway,  
Yell in the hunt, and share the murderous prey ;  
To insult the shrine of Liberty with spoils  
From freemen torn ; to tempt and to betray ?

53 insupportably] irresistibly 1802.      54 ramp] tramp 1828, 1829, 1834, 1852. [Text of 1834 is here corrected.]      58 reproached] rebuk'd 1802.  
59 said] cried 1802.      62 compel] persuade 1802.      63 call the Earth] lo ! the earth's 1802.      64 those] these 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R.      66 caverns] cavern 1834, 1852. [Text of 1834 is here corrected.]      69 And ye that flying  
spot the [your 1802] mountain-snows 1798 : And ye that fleeing spot the  
mountain-snows 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R.      75 stormy] native 1802.      77 taint] stain 1802.      79 patriot] patient 1798, 1802.      80 Was this thy boast 1802.  
81 Kings in the low lust] monarchs in the lust 1802.

## V

The Sensual and the Dark rebel in vain, 85  
 Slaves by their own compulsion ! In mad game  
 They burst their manacles and wear the name  
 Of Freedom, graven on a heavier chain !  
 O Liberty ! with profitless endeavour  
 Have I pursued thee, many a weary hour ; 90  
 But thou nor swell'st the victor's strain, nor ever  
 Didst breathe thy soul in forms of human power.  
 Alike from all, howe'er they praise thee,  
 (Nor prayer, nor boastful name delays thee)  
 Alike from Priestcraft's harpy minions, 95  
 And factious Blasphemy's obscener slaves,  
 Thou speedest on thy subtle pinions,  
 The guide of homeless winds, and playmate of the waves !  
 And there I felt thee !—on that sea-cliff's verge,  
 Whose pines, scarce travelled by the breeze above, 100  
 Had made one murmur with the distant surge !  
 Yes, while I stood and gazed, my temples bare,  
 And shot my being through earth, sea, and air,  
 Possessing all things with intensest love,  
 O Liberty ! my spirit felt thee there. 105

*February, 1798.*

85-9. The fifth stanza, which alluded to the African Slave Trade as conducted by this Country, and to the present Ministry and their supporters, has been omitted, and would have been omitted without remark if the commencing lines of the sixth stanza had not referred to it.

## VI

Shall I with *these* my patriot zeal combine ?  
 No, Afrie, no ! they stand before my ken  
 Loath'd as th' Hyenas, that in murky den  
 Whine o'er their prey and mangle while they whine,  
 Divinest Liberty ! with vain endeavour 1798.

87 burst] break 1802. and] to *B. L.*, i. 194. name] name *B. L.*  
 91 strain] pomp *B. L.* 92 in] on 1802. 95 Priestcraft's] priest-  
 hood's 4<sup>o</sup>, *P. R.*: superstition's *B. L.* 97 subtle] cherub *B. L.*  
 98 To live amid the winds and move upon the waves 1798, 4<sup>o</sup>, *P. R.*  
 To live among the winds and brood upon the waves 1802.  
 99 there] there 1798 : then 4<sup>o</sup>, *P. R.* that] yon 1802. 100 scarce] just 1802.  
 102 Yes, as I stood and gazed my forehead bare 1802. 104 with] by 1802.

THE OLD MAN OF THE ALPS<sup>1</sup>

STRANGER ! whose eyes a look of pity shew,  
 Say, will you listen to a tale of woe ?  
 A tale in no unwonted horrors drest ;  
 But sweet is pity to an agéd breast.  
 This voice did falter with old age before ;       5  
 Sad recollections make it falter more.  
 Beside the torrent and beneath a wood,  
 High in these Alps my summer cottage stood ;  
 One daughter still remain'd to cheer my way,  
 The evening-star of life's declining day :       10  
 Duly she hied to fill her milking-pail,  
 Ere shout of herdsmen rang from cliff or vale ;  
 When she return'd, before the summer shiel,  
 On the fresh grass she spread the dairy meal ;  
 Just as the snowy peaks began to lose       15  
 In glittering silver lights their rosy hues.  
 Singing in woods or bounding o'er the lawn,  
 No blither creature hail'd the early dawn ;  
 And if I spoke of hearts by pain oppress'd,  
 When every friend is gone to them that rest ;       20  
 Or of old men that leave, when they expire,  
 Daughters, that should have perish'd with their sire—  
 Leave them to toil all day through paths unknown,  
 And house at night behind some sheltering stone ;  
 Impatient of the thought, with lively cheer       25  
 She broke half-closed the tasteless tale severe.  
*She* play'd with fancies of a gayer hue,  
 Enamour'd of the scenes her *wishes* drew ;  
 And oft she prattled with an eager tongue  
 Of promised joys that would not loiter long,       30

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, March 8, 1798 : first collected *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80 : not included in *P. W.*, 1893. Coleridge affixed the signature Nicias Erythraeus to these lines and to *Leuti*, which was published in the *Morning Post* five weeks later, April 13, 1798. For a biographical notice of Janus Nicius Erythraeus (Giovanni Vittorio d'Rossi, 1577-1647) by the late Richard Garnett, see *Literature*, October 22, 1898.

Till with her tearless eyes so bright and fair,  
She seem'd to see them realis'd in air !  
In fancy oft, within some sunny dell,  
Where never wolf should howl or tempest yell,  
She built a little home of joy and rest,      35  
And fill'd it with the friends whom she lov'd best :  
She named the inmates of her fancied cot,  
And gave to each his own peculiar lot ;  
Which with our little herd abroad should roam,  
And which should tend the dairy's toil at home,      40  
And now the hour approach'd which should restore  
Her lover from the wars, to part no more.  
Her whole frame fluttered with uneasy joy ;  
I long'd myself to clasp the valiant boy ;  
And though I strove to calm *her* eager mood,      45  
It was my own sole thought in solitude.  
I told it to the Saints amid my hymns—  
For O ! you know not, on an old man's limbs  
How thrillingly the pleasant sun-beams play,  
That shine upon his daughter's wedding-day.      50  
I hoped, that those fierce tempests, soon to rave  
Unheard, unfelt, around *my* mountain grave,  
Not undelightfully would break *her* rest,  
While she lay pillow'd on her lover's breast ;  
Or join'd his pious prayer for pilgrims driven      55  
Out to the mercy of the winds of heaven.  
Yes ! now the hour approach'd that should restore  
Her lover from the wars to part no more.  
Her thoughts were wild, her soul was in her eye,  
She wept and laugh'd as if she knew not why ;      60  
And she had made a song about the wars,  
And sang it to the sun and to the stars !  
But while she look'd and listen'd, stood and ran,  
And saw him plain in every distant man,  
By treachery stabbed, on NANSY's murderous day,      65  
A senseless corse th' expected husband lay.  
A wounded man, who met us in the wood,  
Heavily ask'd her where *my* cottage stood,  
And told us all : she cast her eyes around  
As if his words had been but empty sound.      70  
Then look'd to Heav'n, like one that would deny  
That such a thing could be beneath the sky.  
*Again* he ask'd her if she knew my name,

And instantly an anguish wrench'd her frame,  
And left her mind imperfect. No delight  
Thenceforth she found in any cheerful sight,  
Not ev'n in those time-haunted wells and groves,  
Scenes of past joy, and birth-place of her loves.  
If to her spirit any sound was dear,  
'Twas the deep moan that spoke the tempest near; 80  
Or sighs which chasms of icy vales outbreathe,  
Sent from the dark, imprison'd floods beneath.  
She wander'd up the crag and down the slope,  
But not, as in her happy days of hope,  
To seek the churning-plant of sovereign power,  
That grew in clefts and bore a scarlet flower ! 85  
She roam'd, without a purpose, all alone,  
Thro' high grey vales unknowing and unknown.

Kind-hearted stranger ! patiently you hear  
A tedious tale: I thank you for that tear.  
May never other tears o'ercloud your eye,  
Than those which gentle Pity can supply !  
Did you not mark a towering convent hang,  
Where the huge rocks with sounds of torrents rang ?  
Ev'n yet, methinks, its spiry turrets swim 95  
Amid yon purple gloom ascending dim !  
For thither oft would my poor child repair,  
To ease her soul by penitence and prayer.  
I knew that peace at good men's prayers returns  
Home to the contrite heart of him that mourns,  
And check'd her not; and often there she found 100  
A timely pallet when the evening frown'd.  
And there I trusted that my child would light  
On shelter and on food, one dreadful night,  
When there was uproar in the element,  
And she was absent. To my rest I went: 105  
I thought her safe, yet often did I wake  
And felt my very heart within me ache.  
No daughter near me, at this very door,  
Next morn I listen'd to the dying roar.  
Above, below, the prowling vulture wail'd, 110  
And down the cliffs the heavy vapour sail'd.  
Up by the wide-spread waves in fury torn,  
Homestalls and pines along the vale were borne.  
The Dalesmen in thick crowds appear'd below 115

Clearing the road, o'erwhelm'd with hills of snow.  
At times to the proud gust's ascending swell,  
A pack of blood-hounds flung their doleful yell :  
For after nights of storm, that dismal train  
The pious convent sends, with hope humane,      120  
To find some out-stretch'd man—perchance to save,  
Or give, at least, that last good gift, a grave !  
But now a gathering crowd did I survey,  
That slowly up the pasture bent their way ;  
Nor could I doubt but that their care had found      125  
Some pilgrim in th' unchannel'd torrent drown'd.  
And down the lawn I hasten'd to implore  
That they would bring the body to my door ;  
But soon exclaim'd a boy, who ran before,  
'Thrown by the last night's waters from their bed,      130  
Your daughter has been found, and she is dead !'

The old man paused—May he who, sternly just,  
Lays at his will his creatures in the dust ;  
Some ere the earliest buds of hope be blown,  
And some, when every bloom of joy is flown ;      135  
May he the parent to his child restore  
In that unchanging realm, where Love reigns evermore !

*March 8, 1798.*

NICIAS ERYTHRAEUS.

TO A YOUNG LADY<sup>1</sup>

[MISS LAVINIA POOLE]

ON HER RECOVERY FROM A FEVER

WHY need I say, Louisa dear !  
 How glad I am to see you here,  
     A lovely convalescent ;  
 Risen from the bed of pain and fear,  
     And feverish heat incessant.

5

The sunny showers, the dappled sky,  
 The little birds that warble high,  
     Their vernal loves commencing,  
 Will better welcome you than I  
     With their sweet influencing.

10

Believe me, while in bed you lay,  
 Your danger taught us all to pray :  
     You made us grow devouter !  
 Each eye looked up and seemed to say,  
     How can we do without her ?

15

Besides, what vexed us worse, we knew,  
 They have no need of such as you  
     In the place where you were going :  
 This World has angels all too few,  
     And Heaven is overflowing !

20

March 31, 1798.

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, Dec. 9, 1799, included in the *Annual Anthology*, 1800, in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

*To a Young Lady, &c.—Title] To a Young Lady, on Her First Appearance After A Dangerous Illness. Written in the Spring of 1799 [1799 must be a slip for 1798]. M. P., An. Anth.*

<sup>1</sup> *Louisa] Ophelia M. P., An. Anth.*

<sup>6-7</sup> *The breezy air, the sun, the sky,  
The little birds that sing on high M. P., An. Anth.*

<sup>12 all] how M. P., An. Anth.</sup> <sup>13 grow] all M. P., An. Anth.</sup> <sup>16 what]</sup>  
 which *M. P., An. Anth.* <sup>17 have] had M. P., An. Anth.</sup> <sup>19 This]</sup>  
*The M. P.* *Below 20* *Laberius M. P., An. Anth.*

LEWTI<sup>1</sup>

## OR THE CIRCASSIAN LOVE-CHAUNT

AT midnight by the stream I roved,  
To forget the form I loved.  
Image of Lewti! from my mind  
Depart; for Lewti is not kind.  
The Moon was high, the moonlight gleam      5  
    And the shadow of a star  
Heaved upon Tamaha's stream;  
But the rock shone brighter far,  
The rock half sheltered from my view  
By pendent boughs of tressy yew.—      10  
So shines my Lewti's forehead fair,  
Gleaming through her sable hair.  
Image of Lewti! from my mind  
Depart; for Lewti is not kind.

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post* (under the signature *Nicias Erythraeus*), April 13, 1798: included in the *Annual Anthology*, 1800; *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. For MS. versions vide Appendices. ‘Lewti was to have been included in the *Lyrical Ballads* of 1798, but at the last moment the sheets containing it were cancelled and *The Nightingale* substituted.’ (Note to reprint of *L.B.* (1898), edited by T. Hutchinson.) A copy which belonged to Southey, with the new *Table of Contents* and *The Nightingale* bound up with the text as at first printed, is in the British Museum. Another copy is extant which contains the first *Table of Contents* only, and *Lewti* without the addition of *The Nightingale*. In the *M.P.* the following note accompanies the poem:—‘It is not amongst the least pleasing of our recollections, that we have been the means of gratifying the public taste with some exquisite pieces of Original Poetry. For many of them we have been indebted to the author of the Circassian's Love Chant. Amidst images of war and woe, amidst scenes of carnage and horror of devastation and dismay, it may afford the mind a temporary relief to wander to the magic haunts of the Muses, to bowers and fountains which the despoiling powers of war have never visited, and where the lover pours forth his complaint, or receives the recompense of his constancy. The whole of the subsequent Love Chant is in a warm and impassioned strain. The fifth and last stanzas are, we think, the best.’

*Lewti, &c.—Title] Lewti; or the Circassian's Love Chant M. P.  
Between lines 14–15*

I saw the white waves, o'er and o'er,  
Break against the distant shore.

I saw a cloud of palest hue,  
Onward to the moon it passed ; 15  
Still brighter and more bright it grew,  
With floating colours not a few,  
Till it reached the moon at last :  
Then the cloud was wholly bright,  
With a rich and amber light ! 20  
And so with many a hope I seek,  
And with such joy I find my Lewti ;  
And even so my pale wan cheek  
Drinks in as deep a flush of beauty ! 25  
Nay, treacherous image ! leave my mind,  
If Lewti never will be kind.

The little cloud—it floats away,  
Away it goes ; away so soon !  
Alas ! it has no power to stay : 30  
Its hues are dim, its hues are grey—  
Away it passes from the moon !  
How mournfully it seems to fly,  
Ever fading more and more,  
To joyless regions of the sky— 35  
And now 'tis whiter than before !  
As white as my poor cheek will be,  
When, Lewti ! on my couch I lie,  
A dying man for love of thee.  
Nay, treacherous image ! leave my mind — 40  
And yet, thou didst not look unkind.

I saw a vapour in the sky,  
Thin, and white, and very high ;

All at once upon the sight,  
All at once they broke in light ;  
I heard no murmur of their roar,  
Nor ever I beheld them flowing,  
Neither coming, neither going ;  
But only saw them o'er and o'er,  
Break against the curved shore :  
Now disappearing from the sight,  
Now twinkling regular and white,  
And LEWTI's smiling mouth can shew  
As white and regular a row.  
Nay, treach'rous image from my mind  
Depart ; for LEWTI is not kind. M. P.

I ne'er beheld so thin a cloud :  
 Perhaps the breezes that can fly                          45  
 Now below and now above,  
 Have snatched aloft the lawny shroud<sup>1</sup>  
 Of Lady fair—that died for love.  
 For maids, as well as youths, have perished  
 From fruitless love too fondly cherished.                50  
 Nay, treacherous image ! leave my mind—  
 For Lewti never will be kind.

Hush ! my heedless feet from under  
 Slip the crumbling banks for ever :  
 Like echoes to a distant thunder,                          55  
 They plunge into the gentle river.  
 The river-swans have heard my tread,  
 And startle from their reedy bed.  
 O beauteous birds ! methinks ye measure  
 Your movements to some heavenly tune !                60  
 O beauteous birds ! 'tis such a pleasure  
 To see you move beneath the moon,  
 I would it were your true delight  
 To sleep by day and wake all night.

<sup>1</sup> This image was borrowed by Miss Bailey (*sic*) in her *Basil* as the dates of the poems prove. *MS. Note by S. T. C.*

52 For] Tho' M. P.

*Between lines 52-3*

This hand should make his life-blood flow,  
 That ever scorn'd my LEWTI so.

I cannot chuse but fix my sight  
 On that small vapour, thin and white !  
 So thin it scarcely, I protest,  
 Bedims the star that shines behind it !  
 And pity dwells in LEWTI's breast  
 Alas ! if I knew how to find it.  
 And O ! how sweet it were, I wist,  
 To see my LEWTI's eyes to-morrow  
 Shine brightly thro' as thin a mist  
 Of pity and repentant sorrow !  
 Nay treach'rous image ! leave my mind—  
 Ah, LEWTI ! why art thou unkind ?

53 Hush!] Slush ! *Sibylline Leaves* (*Errata, S. L.*, p. [xi], for *Slush* r. *Hush*).

I know the place where Lewti lies,  
When silent night has closed her eyes :

65

It is a breezy jasmine-bower,  
The nightingale sings o'er her head :

Voice of the Night ! had I the power  
That leafy labyrinth to thread,  
And creep, like thee, with soundless tread,  
I then might view her bosom white  
Heaving lovely to my sight,  
As these two swans together heave  
On the gently-swelling wave.

70

75

Oh ! that she saw me in a dream,  
And dreamt that I had died for care ;  
All pale and wasted I would seem,  
Yet fair withal, as spirits are !  
I'd die indeed, if I might see  
Her bosom heave, and heave for me !  
Soothe, gentle image ! soothe my mind !  
To-morrow Lewti may be kind.

80

1798.

## FEARS IN SOLITUDE<sup>1</sup>

WRITTEN IN APRIL 1798, DURING THE ALARM  
OF AN INVASION

A GREEN and silent spot, amid the hills,  
A small and silent dell ! O'er stiller place

<sup>1</sup> First published in a quarto pamphlet 'printed by J. Johnson in S. Paul's Churchyard, 1798' : included in *Poetical Register*, 1808-9 (1812), and, with the same text, in an octavo pamphlet printed by Law and Gilbert in (?) 1812 : in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. Lines 129-97 were

69-71

Had I the enviable power  
To creep unseen with noiseless tread  
Then should I view *M. P.*, *An. Anth.*  
O beating heart had I the power.

*MS. Corr. An. Anth. by S. T. C.*

73 my] the *M. P.*, *An. Anth.*

*Below 83* Signed Nicias Erythraeus. *M. P.*

*Fears in Solitude—Title]* Fears &c. Written, April 1798, during the Alarms of an Invasion *MS. W., 4<sup>o</sup>*: Fears &c. Written April 1798, &c. *P. R.*

No singing sky-lark ever poised himself.  
 The hills are heathy, save that swelling slope,  
 Which hath a gay and gorgeous covering on,  
 All golden with the never-bloomless furze,      5  
 Which now blooms most profusely: but the dell,  
 Bathed by the mist, is fresh and delicate  
 As vernal corn-field, or the unripe flax,  
 When, through its half-transparent stalks, at eve,  
 The level sunshine glimmers with green light.      10  
 Oh ! 'tis a quiet spirit-healing nook !  
 Which all, methinks, would love; but chiefly he,  
 The humble man, who, in his youthful years,  
 Knew just so much of folly, as had made      15  
 His early manhood more securely wise !  
 Here he might lie on fern or withered heath,  
 While from the singing lark (that sings unseen  
 The minstrelsy that solitude loves best),  
 And from the sun, and from the breezy air,      20  
 Sweet influences trembled o'er his frame;  
 And he, with many feelings, many thoughts,  
 Made up a meditative joy, and found  
 Religious meanings in the forms of Nature !  
 And so, his senses gradually wrapt      25  
 In a half sleep, he dreams of better worlds,  
 And dreaming hears thee still, O singing lark,  
 That singest like an angel in the clouds !

My God ! it is a melancholy thing  
 For such a man, who would full fain preserve      30  
 His soul in calmness, yet perforce must feel  
 For all his human brethren—O my God !  
 It weighs upon the heart, that he must think

reprinted in the *Morning Post*, Oct. 14, 1802. They follow the reprint of *France : an Ode*, and are thus prefaced :—‘The following extracts are made from a Poem by the same author, written in April 1798 during the alarm respecting the threatened invasion.’ They were included in *The Friend*, No. II (June 8, 1809), as *Fears of Solitude*. An autograph MS. (in the possession of Professor Dowden), undated but initialled S. T. C., is subscribed as follows :—‘N. B. The above is perhaps not Poetry,—but rather a sort of middle thing between Poetry and Oratory—sermoni propriora.—Some parts are, I am conscious, too tame even for animated prose.’ An autograph MS. dated (as below 232) is in the possession of Mr. Gordon Wordsworth.

19 that] which 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R.

33

It is indeed a melancholy thing  
 And weighs upon the heart 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R., S. L.

What uproar and what strife may now be stirring  
 This way or that way o'er these silent hills—  
 Invasion, and the thunder and the shout,  
 And all the crash of onset; fear and rage,  
 And undetermined conflict—even now,  
 Even now, perchance, and in his native isle:  
 Carnage and groans beneath this blessed sun!  
 We have offended, Oh! my countrymen!  
 We have offended very grievously,  
 And been most tyrannous. From east to west  
 A groan of accusation pierces Heaven!  
 The wretched plead against us; multitudes  
 Countless and vehement, the sons of God,  
 Our brethren! Like a cloud that travels on,  
 Steamed up from Cairo's swamps of pestilence,  
 Even so, my countrymen! have we gone forth  
 And borne to distant tribes slavery and pangs,  
 And, deadlier far, our vices, whose deep taint  
 With slow perdition murders the whole man,  
 His body and his soul! Meanwhile, at home,  
 All individual dignity and power  
 Engulfed in Courts, Committees, Institutions,  
 Associations and Societies,  
 A vain, speech-mouthing, speech-reporting Guild,  
 One Benefit-Club for mutual flattery,  
 We have drunk up, demure as at a grace,  
 Pollutions from the brimming cup of wealth;  
 Contemptuous of all honourable rule,  
 Yet bartering freedom and the poor man's life  
 For gold, as at a market! The sweet words  
 Of Christian promise, words that even yet  
 Might stem destruction, were they wisely preached,

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40 groans] screams 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R.      43 And have been tyrannous 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R.  
 44-60      The groan of accusation pleads against us.

\* \* \* \* \*

Desunt aliqua

. . . Meanwhile at home

We have been drinking with a riotous thirst  
 Pollutions, &c. MS. D.

53-9

Meanwhile at home

We have been drinking with a riotous thirst.  
 Pollutions from the brimming cup of wealth  
 A selfish, lewd, effeminated race. MS. W., 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R.

[Lines 54-8 of the text were added in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817.]

Are muttered o'er by men, whose tones proclaim  
How flat and wearisome they feel their trade:  
Rank scoffers some, but most too indolent  
To deem them falsehoods or to know their truth.  
Oh ! blasphemous ! the Book of Life is made      70  
A superstitious instrument, on which  
We gabble o'er the oaths we mean to break ;  
For all must swear—all and in every place,  
College and wharf, council and justice-court ;  
All, all must swear, the briber and the bribed,      75  
Merchant and lawyer, senator and priest,  
The rich, the poor, the old man and the young ;  
All, all make up one scheme of perjury,  
That faith doth reel ; the very name of God  
Sounds like a juggler's charm ; and, bold with joy,      80  
Forth from his dark and lonely hiding-place,  
(Portentous sight !) the owlet Atheism,  
Sailing on obscene wings athwart the noon,  
Drops his blue-fringed lids, and holds them close,  
And hooting at the glorious sun in Heaven,      85  
Cries out, 'Where is it ?'

Thankless too for peace,  
(Peace long preserved by fleets and perilous seas)  
Secure from actual warfare, we have loved  
To swell the war-whoop, passionate for war !  
Alas ! for ages ignorant of all      90  
Its ghastlier workings, (famine or blue plague,  
Battle, or siege, or flight through wintry snows,)  
We, this whole people, have been clamorous  
For war and bloodshed ; animating sports,  
The which we pay for as a thing to talk of,      95  
Spectators and not combatants ! No guess  
Anticipative of a wrong unfelt,  
No speculation on contingency,  
However dim and vague, too vague and dim  
To yield a justifying cause ; and forth,      100  
(Stuffed out with big preamble, holy names,  
And adjurations of the God in Heaven,)  
We send our mandates for the certain death  
Of thousands and ten thousands ! Boys and girls,  
And women, that would groan to see a child      105  
Pull off an insect's leg, all read of war,

69 know] know MS. W., 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R.

The best amusement for our morning meal !  
 The poor wretch, who has learnt his only prayers  
 From curses, who knows scarcely words enough  
 To ask a blessing from his Heavenly Father,      110  
 Becomes a fluent phraseman, absolute  
 And technical in victories and defeats,  
 And all our dainty terms for fratricide ;  
 Terms which we trundle smoothly o'er our tongues  
 Like mere abstractions, empty sounds to which      115  
 We join no feeling and attach no form !  
 As if the soldier died without a wound ;  
 As if the fibres of this godlike frame  
 Were gored without a pang ; as if the wretch,  
 Who fell in battle, doing bloody deeds,      120  
 Passed off to Heaven, translated and not killed ;  
 As though he had no wife to pine for him,  
 No God to judge him ! Therefore, evil days  
 Are coming on us, O my countrymen !  
 And what if all-avenging Providence,      125  
 Strong and retributive, should make us know  
 The meaning of our words, force us to feel  
 The desolation and the agony  
 Of our fierce doings ?

Spare us yet awhile,  
 Father and God ! O ! spare us yet awhile !      130  
 Oh ! let not English women drag their flight  
 Fainting beneath the burthen of their babes,  
 Of the sweet infants, that but yesterday  
 Laughed at the breast ! Sons, brothers, husbands, all  
 Who ever gazed with fondness on the forms      135  
 Which grew up with you round the same fire-side,  
 And all who ever heard the sabbath-bells  
 Without the infidel's scorn, make yourselves pure !  
 Stand forth ! be men ! repel an impious foe,  
 Impious and false, a light yet cruel race,      140

110 from] of 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R.      112 defeats] deceit S. L. [Probably a misprint].  
 121 translated] translated 4<sup>o</sup>, P. R.      131 drag] speed 1809.      133  
 that] who 1802, 1809.      134 Laugh'd at the bosom ! Husbands,  
 fathers, all 1802 : Smil'd at the bosom ! Husbands, Brothers, all *The  
 Friend*, 1809.      136 Which] That 1802.      138 pure] strong 1809.  
 139 foe] race 1809.  
 138-9 Without the Infidel's scorn, stand forth, be men,  
 Make yourselves strong, repel an impious foe 1802.  
 140 yet] and MS. W.

Who laugh away all virtue, mingling mirth  
 With deeds of murder; and still promising  
 Freedom, themselves too sensual to be free,  
 Poison life's amities, and cheat the heart  
 Of faith and quiet hope, and all that soothes,      145  
 And all that lifts the spirit! Stand we forth;  
 Render them back upon the insulted ocean,  
 And let them toss as idly on its waves  
 As the vile sea-weed, which some mountain-blast  
 Swept from our shores! And oh! may we return      150  
 Not with a drunken triumph, but with fear,  
 Repenting of the wrongs with which we stung  
 So fierce a foe to frenzy!

I have told,

O Britons! O my brethren! I have told  
 Most bitter truth, but without bitterness.      155  
 Nor deem my zeal or factious or mistimed;  
 For never can true courage dwell with them,  
 Who, playing tricks with conscience, dare not look  
 At their own vices. We have been too long  
 Dupes of a deep delusion! Some, belike,      160  
 Groaning with restless enmity, expect  
 All change from change of constituted power;  
 As if a Government had been a robe,

141 Who] That 4<sup>o</sup>, *P. R.*, 1802, 1809.      146 we] ye 1809.      148 toss]  
 float 1809.      149 sea-weed] sea-weeds *MS. W.*, 4<sup>o</sup>, 1802.      some] the 1809.  
 150 Swept] Sweeps 1809.      151 fear] awe 1802.

151-3 Not in a drunken triumph, but with awe  
 Repentant of the wrongs, with which we stung  
 So fierce a race to Frenzy. 1809.

154 O men of England! Brothers! I have told 1809.      155 truth]  
 truths 1802, 1809.      156 factious] factitious 1809.      157 courage]  
 freedom 1802.      159-61 At their own vices. Fondly some expect  
 [We have been . . . enmity *om.*] 1802.      162 constituted] delegated 1802.

161-4 Restless in enmity have thought all change  
 Involv'd in change of constituted power.  
 As if a Government were but a robe  
 On which our vice and wretchedness were sewn. 1809.

163 had been] were but 1809.

163-75 As if a government were but a robe  
 To which our crimes and miseries were affix'd,  
 Like fringe, or epaulet, and with the robe  
 Pull'd off at pleasure. Others, the meantime,  
 Doat with a mad idolatry, and all  
 Who will not bow their heads, and close their eyes,  
 And worship blindly—these are enemies  
 Even of their country. Such have they deemed me. 1802.

On which our vice and wretchedness were tagged  
 Like fancy-points and fringes, with the robe      165  
 Pulled off at pleasure. Fondly these attach  
 A radical causation to a few  
 Poor drudges of chastising Providence,  
 Who borrow all their hues and qualities  
 From our own folly and rank wickedness,      170  
 Which gave them birth and nursed them. Others, mean-  
 while,  
 Dote with a mad idolatry ; and all  
 Who will not fall before their images,  
 And yield them worship, they are enemies  
 Even of their country !

Such have I been deemed.— 175  
 But, O dear Britain ! O my Mother Isle !  
 Needs must thou prove a name most dear and holy  
 To me, a son, a brother, and a friend,  
 A husband, and a father ! who revere  
 All bonds of natural love, and find them all      180  
 Within the limits of thy rocky shores.  
 O native Britain ! O my Mother Isle !  
 How shouldst thou prove aught else but dear and holy  
 To me, who from thy lakes and mountain-hills,  
 Thy clouds, thy quiet dales, thy rocks and seas,      185  
 Have drunk in all my intellectual life,  
 All sweet sensations, all ennobling thoughts,  
 All adoration of the God in nature,  
 All lovely and all honourable things,  
 Whatever makes this mortal spirit feel      190  
 The joy and greatness of its future being ?  
 There lives nor form nor feeling in my soul  
 Unborrowed from my country ! O divine  
 And beauteous island ! thou hast been my sole  
 And most magnificent temple, in the which      195

166-71 Fondly . . . nursed them *om.* 1809.      171 nursed] nurse 4<sup>o</sup>,  
*S. L.*      meanwhile] meantime 1809.      175 Such have I been deemed 1809.  
 177 prove] be 1802, 1809.      179 father] parent 1809.      180 All  
 natural bonds of 1802.      181 limits] circle 1802, 1809.      183 couldst  
 thou be 1802 : shouldst thou be 1809.

184-5 To me who from thy brooks and mountain-hills,  
 Thy quiet fields, thy clouds, thy rocks, thy seas 1802.  
 To me who from thy seas and rocky shores  
 Thy quiet fields thy streams and wooded hills 1809.

I walk with awe, and sing my stately songs,  
Loving the God that made me!—

May my fears,

My filial fears, be vain! and may the vaunts  
And menace of the vengeful enemy  
Pass like the gust, that roared and died away      200  
In the distant tree: which heard, and only heard  
In this low dell, bowed not the delicate grass.

But now the gentle dew-fall sends abroad  
The fruit-like perfume of the golden furze:  
The light has left the summit of the hill,      205  
Though still a sunny gleam lies beautiful,  
Aslant the ivied beacon. Now farewell,  
Farewell, awhile, O soft and silent spot!  
On the green sheep-track, up the heathy hill,  
Homeward I wind my way; and lo! recalled      210  
From bodings that have well-nigh wearied me,  
I find myself upon the brow, and pause  
Startled! And after lonely sojourning  
In such a quiet and surrounded nook,  
This burst of prospect, here the shadowy main,      215  
Dim-tinted, there the mighty majesty  
Of that huge amphitheatre of rich  
And elmy fields, seems like society—  
Conversing with the mind, and giving it  
A livelier impulse and a dance of thought!      220  
And now, belovéd Stowey! I behold  
Thy church-tower, and, methinks, the four huge elms  
Clustering, which mark the mansion of my friend;  
And close behind them, hidden from my view,  
Is my own lowly cottage, where my babe      225  
And my babe's mother dwell in peace! With light  
And quickened footsteps thitherward I tend,  
Remembering thee, O green and silent dell!  
And grateful, that by nature's quietness  
And solitary musings, all my heart      230  
Is softened, and made worthy to indulge  
Love, and the thoughts that yearn for human kind.

NETHER STOWEY, April 20, 1798.

<sup>207</sup> Aslant the ivied] On the long-ivied MS. W., f<sup>o</sup>.      <sup>214</sup> nook] scene  
MS. W., f<sup>o</sup>, P. R.

THE NIGHTINGALE<sup>1</sup>

A CONVERSATION POEM, APRIL, 1798

No cloud, no relique of the sunken day  
 Distinguishes the West, no long thin slip  
 Of sullen light, no obscure trembling hues.  
 Come, we will rest on this old mossy bridge!      5  
 You see the glimmer of the stream beneath,  
 But hear no murmuring: it flows silently,  
 O'er its soft bed of verdure. All is still,  
 A balmy night! and though the stars be dim,  
 Yet let us think upon the vernal showers      10  
 That gladden the green earth, and we shall find      10  
 A pleasure in the dimness of the stars.  
 And hark! the Nightingale begins its song,  
 'Most musical, most melancholy' bird!<sup>2</sup>  
 A melancholy bird? Oh! idle thought!  
 In Nature there is nothing melancholy.      15  
 But some night-wandering man whose heart was pierced  
 With the remembrance of a grievous wrong,  
 Or slow distemper, or neglected love,  
 (And so, poor wretch! filled all things with himself,  
 And made all gentle sounds tell back the tale      20  
 Of his own sorrow) he, and such as he,

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Lyrical Ballads*, 1798, reprinted in *Lyrical Ballads*, 1800, 1802, and 1805: included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

<sup>2</sup> 'Most musical, most melancholy.' This passage in Milton possesses an excellence far superior to that of mere description; it is spoken in the character of the melancholy Man, and has therefore a dramatic propriety. The Author makes this remark, to rescue himself from the charge of having alluded with levity to a line in Milton; a charge than which none could be more painful to him, except perhaps that of having ridiculed his Bible. *Footnote to l. 13 L. B. 1798, L. B. 1800, S. L. 1817, 1828, 1829.* In 1834 the footnote ends with the word 'Milton', the last sentence being omitted.

*Note.* In the Table of Contents of 1828 and 1829 'The Nightingale' is omitted.

*The Nightingale—Title]* The Nightingale; a Conversational Poem, written in April, 1798 *L. B. 1798:* The Nightingale, written in April, 1798 *L. B. 1800:* The Nightingale A Conversation Poem, written in April, 1798 *S. L., 1828, 1829.*

<sup>21</sup> sorrow] sorrows *L. B. 1798, 1800.*

First named these notes a melancholy strain.  
 And many a poet echoes the conceit ;  
 Poet who hath been building up the rhyme  
 When he had better far have stretched his limbs      25  
 Beside a brook in mossy forest-dell,  
 By sun or moon-light, to the influxes  
 Of shapes and sounds and shifting elements  
 Surrendering his whole spirit, of his song  
 And of his fame forgetful ! so his fame      30  
 Should share in Nature's immortality,  
 A venerable thing ! and so his song  
 Should make all Nature lovelier, and itself  
 Be loved like Nature ! But 'twill not be so ;  
 And youths and maidens most poetical,      35  
 Who lose the deepening twilights of the spring  
 In ball-rooms and hot theatres, they still  
 Full of meek sympathy must heave their sighs  
 O'er Philomela's pity-pleading strains.

My Friend, and thou, our Sister ! we have learnt      40  
 A different lore : we may not thus profane  
 Nature's sweet voices, always full of love  
 And joyance ! 'Tis the merry Nightingale  
 That crowds, and hurries, and precipitates  
 With fast thick warble his delicious notes,      45  
 As he were fearful that an April night  
 Would be too short for him to utter forth  
 His love-chant, and disburthen his full soul  
 Of all its music !

And I know a grove

Of large extent, hard by a castle huge,      50  
 Which the great lord inhabits not ; and so  
 This grove is wild with tangling underwood,  
 And the trim walks are broken up, and grass,  
 Thin grass and king-cups grow within the paths.  
 But never elsewhere in one place I knew      55  
 So many nightingales ; and far and near,  
 In wood and thicket, over the wide grove,  
 They answer and provoke each other's song,  
 With skirmish and capricious passagings,  
 And murmurs musical and swift jug jug,      60

40 My Friend, and my Friend's sister *L. B. 1798, 1800.*      58 song]  
 songs *L. B. 1798, 1800, S. L.*

And one low piping sound more sweet than all—  
 Stirring the air with such a harmony,  
 That should you close your eyes, you might almost  
 Forget it was not day! On moonlight bushes,  
 Whose dewy leaflets are but half-disclosed,      65  
 You may perchance behold them on the twigs,  
 Their bright, bright eyes, their eyes both bright and full,  
 Glistening, while many a glow-worm in the shade  
 Lights up her love-torch.

A most gentle Maid,

Who dwelleth in her hospitable home      70  
 Hard by the castle, and at latest eve  
 (Even like a Lady vowed and dedicate  
 To something more than Nature in the grove)  
 Glides through the pathways; she knows all their notes,  
 That gentle Maid! and oft, a moment's space,      75  
 What time the moon was lost behind a cloud,  
 Hath heard a pause of silence; till the moon  
 Emerging, hath awakened earth and sky  
 With one sensation, and those wakeful birds  
 Have all burst forth in choral minstrelsy,      80  
 As if some sudden gale had swept at once  
 A hundred airy harps! And she hath watched  
 Many a nightingale perch giddily  
 On blossomy twig still swinging from the breeze,  
 And to that motion tune his wanton song      85  
 Like tipsy Joy that reels with tossing head.  
 Farewell, O Warbler! till to-morrow eve,  
 And you, my friends! farewell, a short farewell!  
 We have been loitering long and pleasantly,  
 And now for our dear homes.—That strain again!      90  
 Full fain it would delay me! My dear babe,  
 Who, capable of no articulate sound,  
 Mars all things with his imitative lisp.  
 How he would place his hand beside his ear,  
 His little hand, the small forefinger up,      95

61 And one, low piping, sounds more sweet than all—*S. L. 1817*: (punctuate thus, reading *Sound* for *sounds* :—And one low piping Sound more sweet than all—*Errata, S. L.*, p. [xii]).      62 a] an *all editions to 1834*.      64–9 On moonlight . . . her love-torch *om. L. B. 1800*.      79 those] these *S. L. 1817*.

81 As if one quick and sudden gale had swept *L. B. 1798, 1800, S. L. 1817*.

82 A] An *all editions to 1834*.      84 blossomy] blosmy *L. B. 1798, 1800, S. L. 1817*.

And bid us listen ! And I deem it wise  
 To make him Nature's play-mate. He knows well  
 The evening-star ; and once, when he awoke  
 In most distressful mood (some inward pain  
 Had made up that strange thing, an infant's dream—) 100  
 I hurried with him to our orchard-plot,  
 And he beheld the moon, and, hushed at once,  
 Suspends his sobs, and laughs most silently,  
 While his fair eyes, that swam with undropped tears,  
 Did glitter in the yellow moon-beam ! Well !— 105  
 It is a father's tale : But if that Heaven  
 Should give me life, his childhood shall grow up  
 Familiar with these songs, that with the night  
 He may associate joy.—Once more, farewell,  
 Sweet Nightingale ! once more, my friends ! farewell. 110

1798.

### THE THREE GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

A FRAGMENT OF A SEXTON'S TALE

'THE Author has published the following humble fragment, encouraged by the decisive recommendation of more than one of our most celebrated living Poets. The language was intended to be dramatic ; that is, suited to the narrator ; and the metre corresponds to the homeliness of the diction. It is

<sup>1</sup> Parts III and IV of the *Three Graves* were first published in *The Friend*, No. VI, September 21, 1809. They were included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. Parts I and II, which were probably written in the spring of 1798, at the same time as Parts III and IV, were first published, from an autograph MS. copy, in *Poems*, 1893. [For evidence of date compare ll. 255–8 with Dorothy Wordsworth's *Alfoxden Journal* for March 20, 24, and April 6, 8.] The original MS. of Parts III and IV is not forthcoming. The MS. of the poem as published in *The Friend* is in the handwriting of Miss Sarah Stoddart (afterwards Mrs. Hazlitt), and is preserved with other 'copy' of *The Friend* (of which the greater part is in the handwriting of Miss Sarah Hutchinson) in the Forster Collection which forms part of the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington. The preface and emendations are in the handwriting of S. T. C. The poem was reprinted in the *British Minstrel*, Glasgow, 1821 as 'a modern ballad of the very first rank'. In a marginal note in Mr. Samuel's copy of *Sibylline Leaves* Coleridge writes :—'This very poem was selected, notwithstanding the preface, as a proof of my judgment and poetic diction, and a fair specimen of the style of my poems generally (see the *Mirror*) : nay ! the very words of the preface were used, omitting the *not*,' &c. See for this and other critical matter, *Lyrical Ballads*, 1798, edited by Thomas Hutchinson, 1898. *Notes*, p. 257.

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102 beheld] beholds L. B. 1798, 1800.

therefore presented as the fragment, not of a Poem, but of a common Ballad-tale.<sup>1</sup> Whether this is sufficient to justify the adoption of such a style, in any metrical composition not professedly ludicrous, the Author is himself in some doubt. At all events, it is not presented as poetry, and it is in no way connected with the Author's judgment concerning poetic diction. Its merits, if any, are exclusively psychological. The story which must be supposed to have been narrated in the first and second parts is as follows:—

'Edward, a young farmer, meets at the house of Ellen her bosom-friend Mary, and commences an acquaintance, which ends in a mutual attachment. With her consent, and by the advice of their common friend Ellen, he announces his hopes and intentions to Mary's mother, a widow-woman bordering on her fortieth year, and from constant health, the possession of a competent property, and from having had no other children but Mary and another daughter (the father died in their infancy), retaining for the greater part her personal attractions and comeliness of appearance; but a woman of low education and violent temper. The answer which she at once returned to Edward's application was remarkable—"Well, Edward! you are a handsome young fellow, and you shall have my daughter." From this time all their wooing passed under the mother's eye; and, in fine, she became herself enamoured of her future son-in-law, and practised every art, both of endearment and of calumny, to transfer his affections from her daughter to herself. (The outlines of the Tale are positive facts, and of no very distant date, though the author has purposely altered the names and the scene of action, as well as invented the characters of the parties and the detail of the incidents.) Edward, however, though perplexed by her strange detractions from her daughter's good qualities, yet in the innocence of his own heart still mistook<sup>2</sup> her increasing fondness for motherly affection; she at length, overcome by her miserable passion, after much abuse of Mary's temper and moral tendencies, exclaimed with violent emotion—"O Edward! indeed, indeed, she is not fit for you—she has not a heart to love you as you deserve. It is I that love you! Marry me, Edward! and I will this very day settle all my property on you." The Lover's eyes were now opened; and thus taken by surprise, whether from the effect of the horror which he felt, acting as it were hysterically on his nervous system, or that at the first moment he lost the sense of the guilt of the proposal in the feeling of its strangeness and absurdity, he flung her from him and burst into a fit of laughter. Irritated by this almost to frenzy, the woman fell on her knees, and in a loud voice that approached to a scream, she prayed for a curse both on him and on her own child. Mary happened to be

<sup>1</sup> in the common ballad metre MS.

<sup>2</sup> mistaking *The Friend*.

in the room directly above them, heard Edward's laugh, and her mother's blasphemous prayer, and fainted away. He, hearing the fall, ran upstairs, and taking her in his arms, carried her off to Ellen's home ; and after some fruitless attempts on her part toward a reconciliation with her mother, she was married to him.—And here the third part of the Tale begins.

' I was not led to choose this story from any partiality to tragic, much less to monstrous events (though at the time that I composed the verses, somewhat more than twelve years ago, I was less averse to such subjects than at present), but from finding in it a striking proof of the possible effect on the imagination, from an idea violently and suddenly impressed on it. I had been reading Bryan Edwards's account of the effects of the *Oby* witchcraft on the Negroes in the West Indies, and Hearne's deeply interesting anecdotes of similar workings on the imagination of the Copper Indians (those of my readers who have it in their power will be well repaid for the trouble of referring to those works for the passages alluded to) ; and I conceived the design of shewing that instances of this kind are not peculiar to savage or barbarous tribes, and of illustrating the mode in which the mind is affected in these cases, and the progress and symptoms of the morbid action on the fancy from the beginning.

' The Tale is supposed to be narrated by an old Sexton, in a country church-yard, to a traveller whose curiosity had been awakened by the appearance of three graves, close by each other, to two only of which there were grave-stones. On the first of these was the name, and dates, as usual : on the second, no name, but only a date, and the words, "The Mercy of God is infinite.<sup>1</sup>"' *S. L. 1817, 1828, 1829.*

[PART I—FROM MS.]

BENEATH this thorn when I was young,  
This thorn that blooms so sweet,  
We loved to stretch our lazy limbs  
In summer's noon-tide heat.

<sup>1</sup> In the first issue of *The Friend*, No. VI, September 21, 1809, the poem was thus introduced :—' As I wish to commence the important Subject of—*The Principles* of political Justice with a separate number of *THE FRIEND*, and shall at the same time comply with the wishes communicated to me by one of my female Readers, who writes as the representative of many others, I shall conclude this Number with the following Fragment, or the third and fourth [second and third MS. S.T.C.] parts of a Tale consisting of six. The two last parts may be given hereafter, if the present should appear to have afforded pleasure, and to have answered the purpose of a relief and amusement to my Readers. The story as it is contained in the first and second parts is as follows : *Edward a young farmer, etc.*'

4 In the silent summer heat MS. alternative reading.

And hither too the old man came,  
The maiden and her feer,  
'Then tell me, Sexton, tell me why  
The toad has harbour here.

5

'The Thorn is neither dry nor dead,  
But still it blossoms sweet ;  
Then tell me why all round its roots  
The dock and nettle meet.

10

'Why here the hemlock, &c. [*sic in MS.*]  
'Why these three graves all side by side,  
Beneath the flow'ry thorn,  
Stretch out so green and dark a length,  
By any foot unworn.'

15

There, there a ruthless mother lies  
Beneath the flowery thorn ;  
And there a barren wife is laid,  
And there a maid forlorn.

20

The barren wife and maid forlorn  
Did love each other dear ;  
The ruthless mother wrought the woe,  
And cost them many a tear.

25

Fair Ellen was of serious mind,  
Her temper mild and even,  
And Mary, graceful as the fir  
That points the spire to heaven.

Young Edward he to Mary said,  
'I would you were my bride,'  
And she was scarlet as he spoke,  
And turned her face to hide.

30

'You know my mother she is rich,  
And you have little gear ;  
And go and if she say not Nay,  
Then I will be your fere.'

35

Young Edward to the mother went,  
To him the mother said :  
'In truth you are a comely man ;  
You shall my daughter wed.'

40

<sup>14</sup> Why these three graves all in a row *MS. alternative reading.*  
Stretch out their dark and gloomy length *MS. erased.*

33 turned] strove *MS. erased.*

<sup>1</sup> [In Mary's joy fair Eleanor  
Did bear a sister's part;  
For why, though not akin in blood,  
They sisters were in heart.] 45

Small need to tell to any man  
That ever shed a tear  
What passed within the lover's heart  
The happy day so near.

The mother, more than mothers use, 50  
Rejoiced when they were by;  
And all the 'course of wooing' passed<sup>2</sup>  
Beneath the mother's eye.

And here within the flowering thorn  
How deep they drank of joy: 55  
The mother fed upon the sight,  
Nor . . . [sic in MS.]

[PART II—FROM MS.]<sup>3</sup>

And now the wedding day was fix'd,  
The wedding-ring was bought;  
The wedding-cake with her own hand 60  
The ruthless mother brought.

'And when to-morrow's sun shines forth  
The maid shall be a bride';  
Thus Edward to the mother spake  
While she sate by his side. 65

Alone they sate within the bower:  
The mother's colour fled,  
For Mary's foot was heard above—  
She decked the bridal bed.

And when her foot was on the stairs 70  
To meet her at the door,  
With steady step the mother rose,  
And silent left the bower.

<sup>1</sup> It is uncertain whether this stanza is erased, or merely blotted in the MS.

<sup>2</sup> *Othello* iii. 3.

<sup>3</sup> The words 'Part II' are not in the MS.

She stood, her back against the door,  
 And when her child drew near—  
 ‘Away! away!’ the mother cried,  
 ‘Ye shall not enter here.

75

‘Would ye come here, ye maiden vile,  
 And rob me of my mate?’  
 And on her child the mother scowled  
 A deadly leer of hate.

80

Fast rooted to the spot, you guess,  
 The wretched maiden stood,  
 As pale as any ghost of night  
 That wanteth flesh and blood.

85

She did not groan, she did not fall,  
 She did not shed a tear,  
 Nor did she cry, ‘Oh! mother, why  
 May I not enter here?’

But wildly up the stairs she ran,  
 As if her sense was fled,  
 And then her trembling limbs she threw  
 Upon the bridal bed.

90

The mother she to Edward went  
 Where he sate in the bower,  
 And said, ‘That woman is not fit  
 To be your paramour.

95

‘She is my child—it makes my heart  
 With grief and trouble swell;  
 I rue the hour that gave her birth,  
 For never worse befel.

100

‘For she is fierce and she is proud,  
 And of an envious mind;  
 A wily hypocrite she is,  
 And giddy as the wind.

105

‘And if you go to church with her,  
 You’ll rue the bitter smart;  
 For she will wrong your marriage-bed,  
 And she will break your heart.

81 A deadly] The ghastly MS. erased.

'Oh God, to think that I have shared  
    110  
    Her deadly sin so long ;

She is my child, and therefore I  
    As mother held my tongue.

'She is my child, I've risked for her  
    My living soul's estate :  
I cannot say my daily prayers,  
    115  
    The burthen is so great.

'And she would scatter gold about  
    Until her back was bare ;  
And should you swing for lust of hers  
    120  
    In truth she'd little care.'

Then in a softer tone she said,  
    And took him by the hand :  
'Sweet Edward, for one kiss of your's  
    125  
    I'd give my house and land.

'And if you'll go to church with me,  
    And take me for your bride,  
I'll make you heir of all I have—  
    Nothing shall be denied.'

Then Edward started from his seat,  
    130  
    And he laughed loud and long—  
'In truth, good mother, you are mad,  
    Or drunk with liquor strong.'

To him no word the mother said,  
    But on her knees she fell,  
And fetched her breath while thrice your hand  
    135  
    Might toll the passing-bell.

'Thou daughter now above my head,  
    Whom in my womb I bore,  
May every drop of thy heart's blood  
    140  
    Be curst for ever more.

'And curséd be the hour when first  
    I heard thee wawl and cry ;  
And in the Church-yard curséd be  
    145  
    The grave where thou shalt lie !'

And Mary on the bridal-bed  
 Her mother's curse had heard ;  
 And while the cruel mother spake  
 The bed beneath her stirred.

In wrath young Edward left the hall,      150  
 And turning round he sees  
 The mother looking up to God  
 And still upon her knees.

Young Edward he to Mary went  
 When on the bed she lay :      155  
 'Sweet love, this is a wicked house—  
 Sweet love, we must away.'

He raised her from the bridal-bed,  
 All pale and wan with fear ;  
 'No Dog,' quoth he, 'if he were mine,      160  
 No Dog would kennel here.'

He led her from the bridal-bed,  
 He led her from the stairs.

[Had sense been hers she had not dar'd  
 To venture on her prayers. *MS. erased.*]

The mother still was in the bower,  
 And with a greedy heart      165  
 She drank *perdition* on her knees,  
 Which never may depart.

But when their steps were heard below  
 On God she did not call ;  
 She did forget the God of Heaven,      170  
 For they were in the hall.

She started up—the servant maid  
 Did see her when she rose ;  
 And she has oft declared to me  
 The blood within her froze.      175

As Edward led his bride away  
 And hurried to the door,  
 The ruthless mother springing forth  
 Stopped midway on the floor.

What did she mean ? What did she mean ?      180  
 For with a smile she cried :  
 'Unblest ye shall not pass my door,  
 The bride-groom and his bride.

'Be blithe as lambs in April are,  
As flies when fruits are red ;  
May God forbid that thought of me  
Should haunt your marriage-bed.

185

'And let the night be given to bliss,  
The day be given to glee :  
I am a woman weak and old,  
Why turn a thought on me ?

190

'What can an aged mother do,  
And what have ye to dread ?  
A curse is wind, it hath no shape  
To haunt your marriage-bed.'

195

When they were gone and out of sight  
She rent her hoary hair,  
And foamed like any Dog of June  
When sultry sun-beams glare.

\* \* \* \* \*

Now ask you why the barren wife,  
And why the maid forlorn,  
And why the ruthless mother lies  
Beneath the flowery thorn ?

200

Three times, three times this spade of mine,  
In spite of bolt or bar,  
Did from beneath the belfry come,  
When spirits wandering are.

205

And when the mother's soul to Hell  
By howling fiends was borne,  
This spade was seen to mark her grave  
Beneath the flowery thorn.

210

And when the death-knock at the door  
Called home the maid forlorn,  
This spade was seen to mark her grave  
Beneath the flowery thorn.

215

And 'tis a fearful, fearful tree ;  
The ghosts that round it meet,  
'Tis they that cut the rind at night,  
Yet still it blossoms sweet.

\* \* \* \* \*

[End of MS.]

### PART III<sup>1</sup>

The grapes upon the Vicar's wall  
Were ripe as ripe could be;  
And yellow leaves in sun and wind  
Were falling from the tree.  
  
On the hedge-elms in the narrow lane  
Still swung the spikes of corn:  
Dear Lord! it seems but yesterday—  
Young Edward's marriage-morn.  
  
Up through that wood behind the church,  
There leads from Edward's door  
A mossy track, all over boughed,  
For half a mile or more.  
  
And from their house-door by that track  
The bride and bridegroom went;  
Sweet Mary, though she was not gay,  
Seemed cheerful and content.  
  
But when they to the church-yard came,  
I've heard poor Mary say,  
As soon as she stepped into the sun,  
Her heart it died away.  
  
And when the Vicar join'd their hands,  
Her limbs did creep and freeze:  
But when they prayed, she thought she saw  
Her mother on her knees.

<sup>1</sup> In the MS. of *The Friend*, Part III is headed:—‘The Three Graves. A Sexton’s Tale. A Fragment.’ A MS. note erased in the handwriting of S. T. C. is attached:—‘N.B. Written for me by Sarah Stoddart before her brother was an entire Blank. I have not voluntarily been guilty of any desecration of holy Names.’ In *The Friend*, in *Sibylline Leaves*, in 1828, 1829, and 1834, the poem is headed ‘The Three Graves, &c.’ The heading ‘Part III’ first appeared in 1893.

**Part III]** III MS. erased.

220 foll. In *The Friend* the lines were printed continuously. The division into stanzas (as in the MS.) dates from the republication of the poem in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817. 221 as ripe] as they MS. 224 High on the hedge-elms in the lane MS. erased. 225 spikes] strikes *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817. [Note. It is possible that 'strikes'—a Somersetshire word—(compare 'strikes of flax') was deliberately substituted for 'spikes'. It does not appear in the long list of *Errata* prefixed to *Sibylline Leaves*. Wagons passing through narrow lanes leave on the hedge-rows not single 'spikes', but little swathes or fillets of corn.] 230 over boughed] over-bough'd MS. 242 they] he MS. *The Friend*, 1809.

And o'er the church-path they returned—

I saw poor Mary's back,

Just as she stepped beneath the boughs

Into the mossy track.

245

Her feet upon the mossy track

The married maiden set :

That moment—I have heard her say—

250

She wished she could forget.

The shade o'er-flushed her limbs with heat—

Then came a chill like death :

And when the merry bells rang out,

They seemed to stop her breath.

255

Beneath the foulest mother's curse

No child could ever thrive :

A mother is a mother still,

The holiest thing alive.

So five months passed : the mother still

260

Would never heal the strife ;

But Edward was a loving man

And Mary a fond wife.

'My sister may not visit us,

My mother says her nay :

265

O Edward ! you are all to me,

I wish for your sake I could be

More lifesome and more gay.

'I'm dull and sad ! indeed, indeed

I know I have no reason !

270

Perhaps I am not well in health,

And 'tis a gloomy season.'

'Twas a drizzly time—no ice, no snow !

And on the few fine days

She stirred not out, lest she might meet

275

Her mother in the ways.

But Ellen, spite of miry ways

And weather dark and dreary,

Trudged every day to Edward's house,

And made them all more cheery.

280

260 So five months passed : this mother foul MS erased.  
dank MS. *The Friend*, 1809.

278 dark]

Oh ! Ellen was a faithful friend,  
More dear than any sister !  
As cheerful too as singing lark ;  
And she ne'er left them till 'twas dark,  
And then they always missed her.

285

And now Ash-Wednesday came—that day  
But few to church repair :  
For on that day you know we read  
The Commination prayer.

Our late old Vicar, a kind man,  
Once, Sir, he said to me,  
He wished that service was clean out  
Of our good Liturgy.

290

The mother walked into the church—  
To Ellen's seat she went :  
Though Ellen always kept her church  
All church-days during Lent.

295

And gentle Ellen welcomed her  
With courteous looks and mild :  
Thought she, ‘What if her heart should melt,  
And all be reconciled !’

The day was scarcely like a day—  
The clouds were black outright :  
And many a night, with half a moon,  
I've seen the church more light.

305

The wind was wild ; against the glass  
The rain did beat and bicker ;  
The church-tower swinging over head,  
You scarce could hear the Vicar !

And then and there the mother knelt,  
And audibly she cried—  
‘Oh ! may a clinging curse consume  
This woman by my side !

310

‘O hear me, hear me, Lord in Heaven,  
Although you take my life—  
O curse this woman, at whose house  
Young Edward woo'd his wife.

315

308 swinging] singing MS. *The Friend*, 1809 : swaying S. L. 309 You could not hear the Vicar. MS. *The Friend*, 1809. 315 you] thou *The Friend*, 1809.

'By night and day, in bed and bower,  
O let her curséd be !!!'  
So having prayed, steady and slow,  
She rose up from her knee!  
And left the church, nor e'er again  
The church-door entered she.

I saw poor Ellen kneeling still,  
So pale ! I guessed not why:  
When she stood up, there plainly was  
A trouble in her eye.

And when the prayers were done, we all  
Came round and asked her why:  
Giddy she seemed, and sure, there was  
A trouble in her eye.

But ere she from the church-door stepped  
She smiled and told us why :  
'It was a wicked woman's curse,'  
Quoth she, 'and what care I ?'

She smiled, and smiled, and passed it off  
Ere from the door she stept—  
But all agree it would have been  
Much better had she wept.

And if her heart was not at ease,  
This was her constant cry—  
'It was a wicked woman's curse—  
God's good, and what care I ?'

There was a hurry in her looks,  
Her struggles she redoubled :  
'It was a wicked woman's curse,  
And why should I be troubled ?'

These tears will come—I dandled her  
When 'twas the merest fairy—  
Good creature ! and she hid it all:  
She told it not to Mary.

But Mary heard the tale : her arms  
Round Ellen's neck she threw ;  
'O Ellen, Ellen, she cursed me,  
And now she hath cursed you !'

320

325

330

335

340

345

350

355

I saw young Edward by himself  
 Stalk fast adown the lee,  
 He snatched a stick from every fence,  
 A twig from every tree.

He snapped them still with hand or knee,      360  
 And then away they flew!  
 As if with his uneasy limbs  
 He knew not what to do!

You see, good sir! that single hill?  
 His farm lies underneath :      365  
 He heard it there, he heard it all,  
 And only gnashed his teeth.

Now Ellen was a darling love  
 In all his joys and cares:  
 And Ellen's name and Mary's name      370  
 Fast-linked they both together came,  
 Whene'er he said his prayers.

And in the moment of his prayers  
 He loved them both alike:  
 Yea, both sweet names with one sweet joy      375  
 Upon his heart did strike!

He reach'd his home, and by his looks  
 They saw his inward strife:  
 And they clung round him with their arms,  
 Both Ellen and his wife.      380

And Mary could not check her tears,  
 So on his breast she bowed;  
 Then frenzy melted into grief,  
 And Edward wept aloud.

Dear Ellen did not weep at all,      385  
 But closerier did she cling,  
 And turned her face and looked as if  
 She saw some frightful thing.

#### PART IV

To see a man tread over graves  
 I hold it no good mark;      390  
 'Tis wicked in the sun and moon,  
 And bad luck in the dark!

You see that grave ? The Lord he gives,  
 The Lord, he takes away :  
 O Sir ! the child of my old age  
 Lies there as cold as clay.

Except that grave, you scarce see one  
 That was not dug by me ;  
 I'd rather dance upon 'em all  
 Than tread upon these three !

'Aye, Sexton ! 'tis a touching tale.'  
 You, Sir ! are but a lad ;  
 This month I'm in my seventieth year,  
 And still it makes me sad.

And Mary's sister told it me,  
 For three good hours and more ;  
 Though I had heard it, in the main,  
 From Edward's self, before.

Well ! it passed off ! the gentle Ellen  
 Did well nigh dote on Mary ;  
 And she went oftener than before,  
 And Mary loved her more and more :  
 She managed all the dairy.

To market she on market-days,  
 To church on Sundays came ;  
 All seemed the same : all seemed so, Sir !  
 But all was not the same !

Had Ellen lost her mirth ? Oh ! no !  
 But she was seldom cheerful ;  
 And Edward looked as if he thought  
 That Ellen's mirth was fearful.

When by herself, she to herself  
 Must sing some merry rhyme ;  
 She could not now be glad for hours,  
 Yet silent all the time.

And when she soothed her friend, through all  
 Her soothing words 'twas plain  
 She had a sore grief of her own,  
 A haunting in her brain.

And oft she said, I'm not grown thin !

430

And then her wrist she spanned ;

And once when Mary was down-cast,

She took her by the hand,

And gazed upon her, and at first

She gently pressed her hand ;

435

Then harder, till her grasp at length

Did gripe like a convulsion !

'Alas !' said she, 'we ne'er can be

Made happy by compulsion !'

And once her both arms suddenly

440

Round Mary's neck she flung,

And her heart panted, and she felt

The words upon her tongue.

She felt them coming, but no power

Had she the words to smother ;

445

And with a kind of shriek she cried,

'Oh Christ ! you're like your mother !'

So gentle Ellen now no more

Could make this sad house cheery ;

And Mary's melancholy ways

450

Drove Edward wild and weary.

Lingering he raised his latch at eve,

Though tired in heart and limb :

He loved no other place, and yet

Home was no home to him.

455

One evening he took up a book,

And nothing in it read ;

Then flung it down, and groaning cried,

'O ! Heaven ! that I were dead.'

Mary looked up into his face,

460

And nothing to him said ;

She tried to smile, and on his arm

Mournfully leaned her head.

And he burst into tears, and fell

Upon his knees in prayer :

465

'Her heart is broke ! O God ! my grief,

It is too great to bear !'

'Twas such a foggy time as makes  
 Old sextons, Sir! like me,  
 Rest on their spades to cough; the spring      470  
 Was late uncommonly.

And then the hot days, all at once,  
 They came, we knew not how:  
 You looked about for shade, when scarce  
 A leaf was on a bough.      475

It happened then ('twas in the bower,  
 A furlong up the wood:  
 Perhaps you know the place, and yet  
 I scarce know how you should,)      480

No path leads thither, 'tis not nigh  
 To any pasture-plot;  
 But clustered near the chattering brook,  
 Lone hollies marked the spot.

Those hollies of themselves a shape  
 As of an arbour took,      485  
 A close, round arbour; and it stands  
 Not three strides from a brook.

Within this arbour, which was still  
 With scarlet berries hung,  
 Were these three friends, one Sunday morn,      490  
 Just as the first bell rung.

'Tis sweet to hear a brook, 'tis sweet  
 To hear the Sabbath-bell,  
 'Tis sweet to hear them both at once,  
 Deep in a woody dell.      495

His limbs along the moss, his head  
 Upon a mossy heap,  
 With shut-up senses, Edward lay:  
 That brook e'en on a working day  
 Might chatter one to sleep.      500

And he had passed a restless night,  
 And was not well in health;  
 The women sat down by his side,  
 And talked as 'twere by stealth.

473 we] one MS. *The Friend*, 1809.      483 Lone] Some MS. *The Friend*,  
 1809.      487 a] the MS. *The Friend*, 1809.      490 friends] dears MS. erased.

'The Sun peeps through the close thick leaves, 505

See, dearest Ellen ! see !

'Tis in the leaves, a little sun,

No bigger than your ee ;

'A tiny sun, and it has got

A perfect glory too ;

Ten thousand threads and hairs of light,

Make up a glory gay and bright

Round that small orb, so blue.'

510

And then they argued of those rays,

What colour they might be ;

Says this, 'They're mostly green' ; says that,

'They're amber-like to me.'

515

So they sat chatting, while bad thoughts

Were troubling Edward's rest ;

But soon they heard his hard quick pants,

520

And the thumping in his breast.

'A mother too !' these self-same words

Did Edward mutter plain ;

His face was drawn back on itself,

With horror and huge pain.

525

Both groaned at once, for both knew well

What thoughts were in his mind ;

When he waked up, and stared like one

That hath been just struck blind.

He sat upright ; and ere the dream

530

Had had time to depart,

'O God, forgive me !' (he exclaimed)

'I have torn out her heart.'

Then Ellen shrieked, and forthwith burst

Into ungentle laughter ;

535

And Mary shivered, where she sat,

And never she smiled after.

1797-1809.

*Carmen reliquum in futurum tempus relegatum.* To-morrow ! and To-morrow ! and To-morrow !

507 in] in MS. *The Friend*, 1809. 511 inserted by S. T. C. MS.

530-1 He sat upright ; and with quick voice

While his eyes seem'd to start MS. erased.

THE WANDERINGS OF CAIN<sup>1</sup>

## PREFATORY NOTE

A PROSE composition, one not in metre at least, seems *primâ facie* to require explanation or apology. It was written in the year 1798, near Nether Stowey, in Somersetshire, at which place (*sanctum et amabile nomen!* rich by so many associations and recollections) the author had

<sup>1</sup> *The Wanderings of Cain* in its present shape was first published in 1828: included in 1829, and (with the omission of that part of the Prefatory Note which follows the verses) in 1834. The verses ('Encinctured', &c.) were first published in the 'Conclusion' of *Aids to Reflection*, 1825, p. 383, with the following apologetic note:—'Will the Reader forgive me if I attempt at once to illustrate and relieve the subject [“the enthusiastic Mystics”] by annexing the first stanza of the Poem, composed in the same year in which I wrote the Ancient Mariner and the first Book of Christabel.' The prose was first published without the verses or 'Prefatory Note' in the *Bijou* for 1828. [See *Poems, 1893, Notes*, p. 600.]

A rough draft of a continuation or alternative version of the *Wanderings of Cain* was found among Coleridge's papers. The greater portion of these fragmentary sheets was printed by the Editor, in the *Athenaeum* of January 27, 1894, p. 114. The introduction of 'alligators' and an 'immense meadow' help to fix the date of *The Wanderings of Cain*. The imagery is derived from William Bartram's *Travels in Florida and Carolina*, which Coleridge and Wordsworth studied in 1798. Mr. Hutchinson, who reprints (*Lyrical Ballads of 1798, Notes*, pp. 259-60) a selected passage from the MS. fragment, points out 'that Coleridge had for a time thought of shaping the poem as a narrative addressed by Cain to his wife'.

'He falls down in a trance—when he awakes he sees a luminous body coming before him. It stands before him an orb of fire. It goes on, he moves not. It returns to him again, again retires as if wishing him to follow it. It then goes on and he follows: they are led to near the bottom of the wild woods, brooks, forests etc. etc. The Fire gradually shapes itself, retaining its luminous appearance, into the lineaments of a man. A dialogue between the fiery shape and Cain, in which the being presses upon him the enormity of his guilt and that he must make some expiation to the true deity, who is a severe God, and persuades him to burn out his eyes. Cain opposes this idea, and says that God himself who had inflicted this punishment upon him, had done it because he neglected to make a proper use of his senses, etc. The evil spirit answers him that God is indeed a God of mercy, and that an example must be given to mankind, that this end will be answered by his terrible appearance, at the same time he will be gratified with the most delicious sights and feelings. Cain, over-persuaded, consents to do it, but wishes to go to the top of the rocks to take a farewell of the earth. His farewell speech concluding with an abrupt address to the promised redeemer, and he abandons the idea on which the being had accompanied him, and turning round to declare this to the being

taken up his residence in order to enjoy the society and close neighbourhood of a dear and honoured friend, T. Poole, Esq. The work was to have been written in concert with another [Wordsworth], whose name is too venerable within the precincts of genius to be unnecessarily brought into connection with such a trifle, and who was then residing at a small distance from Nether Stowey. The title and subject were suggested by myself, who likewise drew out the scheme and the contents for each of the three books or cantos, of which the work was to consist, and which, the reader is to be informed, was to have been finished in one night! My partner undertook the first canto: I the second: and which ever had *done first*, was to set about the third. Almost thirty years have passed by; yet at this moment I cannot without something more than a smile moot the question which of the two things was the

---

he sees him dancing from rock to rock in his former shape down those interminable precipices.

'Child affeared by his father's ravings, goes out to pluck the fruits in the moonlight wildness. Cain's soliloquy. Child returns with a pitcher of water and a cake. Cain wonders what kind of beings dwell in that place—whether any created since man or whether this world had any beings rescued from the Chaos, wandering like shipwrecked beings from another world etc.

'Midnight on the Euphrates. Cedars, palms, pines. Cain discovered sitting on the upper part of the ragged rock, where is cavern overlooking the Euphrates, the moon rising on the horizon. His soliloquy. The Beasts are out on the ramp—he hears the screams of a woman and children surrounded by tigers. Cain makes a soliloquy debating whether he shall save the woman. Cain advances, wishing death, and the tigers rush off. It proves to be Cain's wife with her two children, determined to follow her husband. She prevails upon him at last to tell his story. Cain's wife tells him that her son Enoch was placed suddenly by her side. Cain addresses all the elements to cease for a while to persecute him, while he tells his story. He begins with telling her that he had first after his leaving her found out a dwelling in the desart under a juniper tree etc., etc., how he meets in the desart a young man whom upon a nearer approach he perceives to be Abel, on whose countenance appears marks of the greatest misery . . . of another being who had power after this life, greater than Jehovah. He is going to offer sacrifices to this being, and persuades Cain to follow him—he comes to an immense gulph filled with water, whither they descend followed by alligators etc. They go till they come to an immense meadow so surrounded as to be inaccessible, and from its depth so vast that you could not see it from above. Abel offers sacrifice from the blood of his arm. A gleam of light illumines the meadow—the countenance of Abel becomes more beautiful, and his arms glistering—he then persuades Cain to offer sacrifice, for himself and his son Enoch by cutting his child's arm and letting the blood fall from it. Cain is about to do it when Abel himself in his angelic appearance, attended by Michael, is seen in the heavens, whence they sail slowly down. Abel addresses Cain with terror, warning him not to offer up his innocent child. The evil spirit throws off the countenance of Abel, assumes its own shape, flies off pursuing a flying battle with Michael. Abel carries off the child.'

more impracticable, for a mind so eminently original to compose another man's thoughts and fancies, or for a taste so austere pure and simple to imitate the Death of Abel? Methinks I see his grand and noble countenance as at the moment when having despatched my own portion of the task at full finger-speed, I hastened to him with my manuscript—that look of humourous despondency fixed on his almost blank sheet of paper, and then its silent mock-piteous admission of failure struggling with the sense of the exceeding ridiculousness of the whole scheme—which broke up in a laugh: and the Ancient Mariner was written instead.

Years afterward, however, the draft of the plan and proposed incidents, and the portion executed, obtained favour in the eyes of more than one person, whose judgment on a poetic work could not but have weighed with me, even though no parental partiality had been thrown into the same scale, as a make-weight: and I determined on commencing anew, and composing the whole in stanzas, and made some progress in realising this intention, when adverse gales drove my bark off the 'Fortunate Isles' of the Muses: and then other and more momentous interests prompted a different voyage, to firmer anchorage and a securer port. I have in vain tried to recover the lines from the palimpsest tablet of my memory: and I can only offer the introductory stanza, which had been committed to writing for the purpose of procuring a friend's judgment on the metre, as a specimen:—

Encinctured with a twine of leaves,  
That leafy twine his only dress!  
A lovely Boy was plucking fruits,  
By moonlight, in a wilderness.  
(In a moonlight wilderness *Aids to Reflection*, 1825.)  
The moon was bright, the air was free,  
And fruits and flowers together grew  
On many a shrub and many a tree:  
And all put on a gentle hue,  
Hanging in the shadowy air  
Like a picture rich and rare.  
It was a climate where, they say,  
The night is more belov'd than day.  
But who that beauteous Boy beguil'd,  
That beauteous Boy to linger here?  
Alone, by night, a little child,  
In place so silent and so wild—  
Has he no friend, no loving mother near?

I have here given the birth, parentage, and premature decease of the 'Wanderings of Cain, a poem',—intreating, however, my Readers, not to think so meanly of my judgment as to suppose that I either regard or offer it as any excuse for the publication of the following fragment (and I may add, of one or two others in its neighbourhood) in its primitive crudity. But I should find still greater difficulty in forgiving myself were I to record pro *taedio publico* a set of petty mishaps and annoyances which I myself wish to forget. I must be content therefore with assuring the friendly Reader, that the less he attributes its appearance to the Author's will, choice, or judgment, the nearer to the truth he will be.

S. T. COLERIDGE (1828).

## THE WANDERINGS OF CAIN

## CANTO II

'A LITTLE further, O my father, yet a little further, and we shall come into the open moonlight.' Their road was through a forest of fir-trees; at its entrance the trees stood at distances from each other, and the path was broad, and  
 5 the moonlight and the moonlight shadows reposed upon it, and appeared quietly to inhabit that solitude. But soon the path winded and became narrow; the sun at high noon sometimes speckled, but never illumined it, and now it was dark as a cavern.

10 'It is dark, O my father!' said Enos, 'but the path under our feet is smooth and soft, and we shall soon come out into the open moonlight.'

'Lead on, my child!' said Cain; 'guide me, little child!' And the innocent little child clasped a finger of the hand  
 15 which had murdered the righteous Abel, and he guided his father. 'The fir branches drip upon thee, my son.' 'Yea, pleasantly, father, for I ran fast and eagerly to bring thee the pitcher and the cake, and my body is not yet cool. How happy the squirrels are that feed on these fir-trees! they leap  
 20 from bough to bough, and the old squirrels play round their young ones in the nest. I climb a tree yesterday at noon, O my father, that I might play with them, but they leaped away from the branches, even to the slender twigs did they leap, and in a moment I beheld them on another tree. Why,  
 25 O my father, would they not play with me? I would be good to them as thou art good to me: and I groaned to them even as thou groanest when thou givest me to eat, and when thou coverest me at evening, and as often as I stand at thy knee and thine eyes look at me?' Then Cain stopped, and  
 30 stifling his groans he sank to the earth, and the child Enos stood in the darkness beside him.

And Cain lifted up his voice and cried bitterly, and said, 'The Mighty One that persecuteth me is on this side and on that; he pursueth my soul like the wind, like the sand-blast  
 35 he passeth through me; he is around me even as the air! O that I might be utterly no more! I desire to die—yea,

12 moonlight. Ah, why dost thou groan so deeply? MS. Bijou, 1828. 25 with me? Is it because we are not so happy, as they? Is it because I groan sometimes even as thou groanest? Then Cain stopped, &c. MS. Bijou, 1828.

the things that never had life, neither move they upon the earth—behold! they seem precious to mine eyes. O that a man might live without the breath of his nostrils. So I might abide in darkness, and blackness, and an empty <sup>40</sup> space! Yea, I would lie down, I would not rise, neither would I stir my limbs till I became as the rock in the den of the lion, on which the young lion resteth his head whilst he sleepeth. For the torrent that roareth far off hath a voice: and the clouds in heaven look terribly on me; the Mighty One <sup>45</sup> who is against me speaketh in the wind of the cedar grove; and in silence am I dried up.' Then Enos spake to his father, 'Arise, my father, arise, we are but a little way from the place where I found the cake and the pitcher.' And Cain said, 'How knowest thou!' and the child answered—'Behold the <sup>50</sup> bare rocks are a few of thy strides distant from the forest; and while even now thou wert lifting up thy voice, I heard the echo.' Then the child took hold of his father, as if he would raise him: and Cain being faint and feeble rose slowly on his knees and pressed himself against the trunk of a fir, <sup>55</sup> and stood upright and followed the child.

The path was dark till within three strides' length of its termination, when it turned suddenly; the thick black trees formed a low arch, and the moonlight appeared for a moment like a dazzling portal. Enos ran before and stood in the open <sup>60</sup> air; and when Cain, his father, emerged from the darkness, the child was affrighted. For the mighty limbs of Cain were wasted as by fire; his hair was as the matted curls on the bison's forehead, and so glared his fierce and sullen eye beneath: and the black abundant locks on either side, a rank <sup>65</sup> and tangled mass, were stained and scorched, as though the grasp of a burning iron hand had striven to rend them; and his countenance told in a strange and terrible language of agonies that had been, and were, and were still to continue to be.

The scene around was desolate; as far as the eye could <sup>70</sup> reach it was desolate: the bare rocks faced each other, and left a long and wide interval of thin white sand. You might wander on and look round and round, and peep into the crevices of the rocks and discover nothing that acknowledged the influence of the seasons. There was no spring, no summer, <sup>75</sup> no autumn: and the winter's snow, that would have been lovely, fell not on these hot rocks and scorching sands. Never

63-8 *by fire*: his hair was black, and matted into loathly curls, and his countenance was dark and wild, and *told*, &c. *MS. Bijou, 1828.*

morning lark had poised himself over this desert ; but the huge serpent often hissed there beneath the talons of the vulture, and 80 the vulture screamed, his wings imprisoned within the coils of the serpent. The pointed and shattered summits of the ridges of the rocks made a rude mimicry of human concerns, and seemed to prophecy mutely of things that then were not ; steeples, and battlements, and ships with naked masts. As far 85 from the wood as a boy might sling a pebble of the brook, there was one rock by itself at a small distance from the main ridge. It had been precipitated there perhaps by the groan which the Earth uttered when our first father fell. Before you approached, it appeared to lie flat on the ground, but its base slanted from 90 its point, and between its point and the sands a tall man might stand upright. It was here that Enos had found the pitcher and cake, and to this place he led his father. But ere they had reached the rock they beheld a human shape : his back was towards them, and they were advancing unperceived, when they 95 heard him smite his breast and cry aloud, ‘Woe is me ! woe is me ! I must never die again, and yet I am perishing with thirst and hunger.’

Pallid, as the reflection of the sheeted lightning on the heavy-sailing night-cloud, became the face of Cain ; but the 100 child Enos took hold of the shaggy skin, his father’s robe, and raised his eyes to his father, and listening whispered, ‘Ere yet I could speak, I am sure, O my father, that I heard that voice. Have not I often said that I remembered a sweet voice ? O my father ! this is it’ : and Cain trembled exceedingly. 105 The voice was sweet indeed, but it was thin and querulous, like that of a feeble slave in misery, who despairs altogether, yet can not refrain himself from weeping and lamentation. And, behold ! Enos glided forward, and creeping softly round the base of the rock, stood before the stranger, and looked up 110 into his face. And the Shape shrieked, and turned round, and Cain beheld him, that his limbs and his face were those of his brother Abel whom he had killed ! And Cain stood like one who struggles in his sleep because of the exceeding terribleness of a dream.

87 by the terrible groan the Earth gave when, &c. MS. Bijou, 1828. 92-3  
*But ere they arrived there they beheld, MS. Bijou, 1828.* 94 advancing]  
 coming up MS. Bijou, 1828. 98-101 The face of Cain turned pale, but Enos said, ‘Ere yet, &c. MS. Bijou, 1828. 108-9 Enos crept softly round the base of the rock and stood before MS. Bijou, 1828. 114-16 of a dream ; and ere he had recovered himself from the tumult of his agitation, the Shape, &c. MS. Bijou, 1828.

Thus as he stood in silence and darkness of soul, the 115 Shape fell at his feet, and embraced his knees, and cried out with a bitter outcry, ‘Thou eldest born of Adam, whom Eve, my mother, brought forth, cease to torment me! I was feeding my flocks in green pastures by the side of quiet rivers, and thou killedst me; and now I am in misery.’ Then Cain 120 closed his eyes, and hid them with his hands; and again he opened his eyes, and looked around him, and said to Enos, ‘What beholdest thou? Didst thou hear a voice, my son?’ ‘Yes, my father, I beheld a man in unclean garments, and he uttered a sweet voice, full of lamentation.’ Then Cain 125 raised up the Shape that was like Abel, and said:—‘The Creator of our father, who had respect unto thee, and unto thy offering, wherefore hath he forsaken thee?’ Then the Shape shrieked a second time, and rent his garment, and his naked skin was like the white sands beneath their feet; 130 and he shrieked yet a third time, and threw himself on his face upon the sand that was black with the shadow of the rock, and Cain and Enos sate beside him; the child by his right hand, and Cain by his left. They were all three under the rock, and within the shadow. The Shape that was like 135 Abel raised himself up, and spake to the child, ‘I know where the cold waters are, but I may not drink, wherefore didst thou then take away my pitcher?’ But Cain said, ‘Didst thou not find favour in the sight of the Lord thy God?’ The Shape answered, ‘The Lord is God of the living only, 140 the dead have another God.’ Then the child Enos lifted up his eyes and prayed; but Cain rejoiced secretly in his heart. ‘Wretched shall they be all the days of their mortal life,’ exclaimed the Shape, ‘who sacrifice worthy and acceptable sacrifices to the God of the dead; but after death their toil 145 ceaseth. Woe is me, for I was well beloved by the God of the living, and cruel wert thou, O my brother, who didst snatch me away from his power and his dominion.’ Having uttered these words, he rose suddenly, and fled over the sands: and Cain said in his heart, ‘The curse of the Lord is on me; 150 but who is the God of the dead?’ and he ran after the Shape, and the Shape fled shrieking over the sands, and the sands rose like white mists behind the steps of Cain, but the feet of him that was like Abel disturbed not the sands. He greatly outrun Cain, and turning short, he wheeled round, and came 155 again to the rock where they had been sitting, and where Enos still stood; and the child caught hold of his garment as he

passed by, and he fell upon the ground. And Cain stopped, and beholding him not, said, ‘he has passed into the dark  
 160 woods,’ and he walked slowly back to the rocks ; and when he reached it the child told him that he had caught hold of his garment as he passed by, and that the man had fallen upon the ground : and Cain once more sate beside him, and said, ‘Abel, my brother, I would lament for thee, but that the spirit  
 165 within me is withered, and burnt up with extreme agony.

Now, I pray thee, by thy flocks, and by thy pastures, and by the quiet rivers which thou lovedst, that thou tell me all that thou knowest. Who is the God of the dead ? where doth he make his dwelling ? what sacrifices are acceptable unto him ?  
 170 for I have offered, but have not been received ; I have prayed, and have not been heard ; and how can I be afflicted more than I already am ?’ The Shape arose and answered, ‘O that thou hadst had pity on me as I will have pity on thee. Follow me, Son of Adam ! and bring thy child with thee !’

175 And they three passed over the white sands between the rocks, silent as the shadows.

1798.

TO ——<sup>1</sup>

I mix in life, and labour to seem free,  
 With common persons pleas'd and common things,  
 While every thought and action tends to thee,  
 And every impulse from thy influence springs.

? 1798.

<sup>1</sup> First published without title in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 280 (among other short pieces and fragments ‘communicated by Mr. Gutch’). First collected, again without title, in *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80.

160 and walked *Bijou*, 1828.      rocks] rock MS.      170 but] and MS.  
 176 the] their MS.

To —— Title] To —— 1893. The heading *Ubi Thesaurus Ibi Cor* was prefixed to the illustrated edition of *The Poems of Coleridge*, 1907.

THE BALLAD OF THE DARK LADIÉ<sup>1</sup>

## A FRAGMENT

BENEATH yon birch with silver bark,  
 And boughs so pendulous and fair,  
 The brook falls scatter'd down the rock :  
 And all is mossy there !

And there upon the moss she sits,      5  
 The Dark Ladié in silent pain ;  
 The heavy tear is in her eye,  
 And drops and swells again.

Three times she sends her little page  
 Up the castled mountain's breast,      10  
 If he might find the Knight that wears  
 The Griffin for his crest.

The sun was sloping down the sky,  
 And she had linger'd there all day,  
 Counting moments, dreaming fears—      15  
 Oh wherefore can he stay ?

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. ‘In a manuscript list (undated) of the poems drawn up by Coleridge appear these items together : *Love* 96 lines . . . *The Black Ladié* 190 lines.’ *Note to P. W.*, 1893, p. 614. A MS. of the three last stanzas is extant. In Chapter XIV of the *Biographia Literaria*, 1817, ii. 3 Coleridge synchronizes the *Dark Ladié* (a poem which he was ‘preparing’ with the *Christabel*). It would seem probable that it belongs to the spring or early summer of 1798, and that it was anterior to *Love*, which was first published in the *Morning Post*, December 21, 1799, under the heading ‘Introduction to the Tale of the Dark Ladié’. If the MS. List of Poems is the record of poems actually written, two-thirds of the *Dark Ladié* must have perished long before 1817, when *Sibylline Leaves* was passing through the press, and it was found necessary to swell the Contents with ‘two School-boy Poems’ and ‘with a song modernized with some additions from one of our elder poets’.

She hears a rustling o'er the brook,  
 She sees far off a swinging bough!  
 'Tis He! 'Tis my betrothéd Knight!  
 Lord Falkland, it is Thou!'

20

She springs, she clasps him round the neck,  
 She sobs a thousand hopes and fears,  
 Her kisses glowing on his cheeks  
 She quenches with her tears.

\* \* \*

'My friends with rude ungentle words  
 They scoff and bid me fly to thee!  
 O give me shelter in thy breast!  
 O shield and shelter me!'

25

'My Henry, I have given thee much,  
 I gave what I can ne'er recall,  
 I gave my heart, I gave my peace,  
 O Heaven! I gave thee all.'

30

The Knight made answer to the Maid,  
 While to his heart he held her hand,  
 'Nine castles hath my noble sire,  
 None statelier in the land.'

35

'The fairest one shall be my love's,  
 The fairest castle of the nine!  
 Wait only till the stars peep out,  
 The fairest shall be thine:'

40

'Wait only till the hand of eve  
 Hath wholly closed yon western bars,  
 And through the dark we two will steal  
 Beneath the twinkling stars!'—

'The dark? the dark? No! not the dark?  
 The twinkling stars? How, Henry? How?  
 O God! 'twas in the eye of noon  
 He pledged his sacred vow!

45

And in the eye of noon my love  
 Shall lead me from my mother's door,  
 Sweet boys and girls all clothed in white  
 Strewing flowers before:

50

But first the nodding minstrels go  
 With music meet for lordly bowers,  
 The children next in snow-white vests,  
 Strewing buds and flowers! 55

And then my love and I shall pace,  
 My jet black hair in pearly braids,  
 Between our comely bachelors  
 And blushing bridal maids. 60

\* \* \* \*

1798.

### KUBLA KHAN<sup>1</sup>:

#### OR, A VISION IN A DREAM. A FRAGMENT.

THE following fragment is here published at the request of a poet of great and deserved celebrity [Lord Byron], and, as far as the Author's own opinions are concerned, rather as a psychological curiosity, than on the ground of any supposed poetic merits.

In the summer of the year 1797<sup>2</sup>, the Author, then in ill

<sup>1</sup> First published together with *Christabel* and *The Pains of Sleep*, 1816 : included in 1828, 1829, and 1834.

<sup>2</sup> There can be little doubt that Coleridge should have written 'the summer of 1798'. In an unpublished MS. note dated November 3, 1810, he connects the retirement between 'Linton and Porlock' and a recourse to opium with his quarrel with Charles Lloyd, and consequent distress of mind. That quarrel was at its height in May 1798. He alludes to distress of mind arising from 'calumny and ingratitude from men who have been fostered in the bosom of my confidence' in a letter to J. P. Estlin, dated May 14, 1798; and, in a letter to Charles Lamb, dated [Spring] 1798, he enlarges on his quarrel with Lloyd and quotes from Lloyd's novel of *Edmund Oliver* which was published in 1798. See *Letters of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*, 1895, i. 245, note 1. I discovered and read for the first time the unpublished note of November 3, 1810, whilst the edition of 1893 was in the press, and in a footnote to p. xlii of his *Introduction* the editor, J. D. Campbell, explains that it is too late to alter the position and date of *Kubla Khan*, but accepts the later date (May, 1798) on the evidence of the MS. note.

---

53-6            And first the nodding Minstrels go  
                 With music fit for lovely Bowers,  
                 The children then in snowy robes,  
                 Strewing Buds and Flowers. *MS. S. T. C.*

57 pace] go *MS. S. T. C.*

*Kubla Khan, &c.* Title of Introduction :—Of the Fragment of Kubla Khan 1816, 1828, 1829.

1-5 om. 1834.

health, had retired to a lonely farm-house between Porlock and Linton, on the Exmoor confines of Somerset and Devonshire. In consequence of a slight indisposition, an anodyne  
 10 had been prescribed, from the effects of which he fell asleep in his chair at the moment that he was reading the following sentence, or words of the same substance, in 'Purchas's Pilgrimage': 'Here the Khan Kubla commanded a palace to be built, and a stately garden thereunto. And thus ten miles of fertile ground were inclosed with a wall.'<sup>1</sup> The Author continued for about three hours in a profound sleep, at least of the external senses, during which time he has the most vivid confidence, that he could not have composed less than from two to three hundred lines; if that indeed can  
 20 be called composition in which all the images rose up before him as *things*, with a parallel production of the correspondent expressions, without any sensation or consciousness of effort. On awaking he appeared to himself to have a distinct recollection of the whole, and taking his pen, ink, and paper, instantly and eagerly wrote down the lines that are here preserved. At this moment he was unfortunately called out by a person on business from Porlock, and detained by him above an hour, and on his return to his room, found, to his no small surprise and mortification, that though he still retained some vague  
 30 and dim recollection of the general purport of the vision, yet, with the exception of some eight or ten scattered lines and images, all the rest had passed away like the images on the surface of a stream into which a stone has been cast, but, alas! without the after restoration of the latter!

Then all the charm  
 Is broken—all that phantom-world so fair  
 Vanishes, and a thousand circlets spread,  
 And each mis-shape['s] the other. Stay awhile,  
 Poor youth! who scarcely dar'st lift up thine eyes—  
 40 The stream will soon renew its smoothness, soon  
 The visions will return! And lo, he stays,  
 And soon the fragments dim of lovely forms  
 Come trembling back, unite, and now once more  
 The pool becomes a mirror.

[From *The Picture; or, the Lover's Resolution*, ll. 91–100.]

Yet from the still surviving recollections in his mind, the Author has frequently purposed to finish for himself what had

<sup>1</sup> 'In Xamdu did Cublai Can build a stately Palace, encompassing sixteene miles of plaine ground with a wall, wherein are fertile Meddowes, pleasant Springs, delightfull Streames, and all sorts of beasts of chase and game, and in the middest thereof a sumptuous house of pleasure.'—*Purchas his Pilgrimage*: Lond. fol. 1626, Bk. IV, chap. xiii, p. 418.

been originally, as it were, given to him. Σαμερον ἄδιον ασω<sup>1</sup> [Αὔριον ἄδιον ασω 1834]: but the to-morrow is yet to come.

As a contrast to this vision, I have annexed a fragment of a very different character, describing with equal fidelity the 50 dream of pain and disease.<sup>2</sup>

## KUBLA KHAN

IN XANADU DID KUBLA KHAN  
A STATELY PLEASURE-DOME DECREE:  
WHERE ALPH, THE SACRED RIVER, RAN  
THROUGH CAVERNS MEASURELESS TO MAN

DOWN TO A SUNLESS SEA.

5

SO TWICE FIVE MILES OF FERTILE GROUND  
WITH WALLS AND TOWERS WERE GIRDLED ROUND:  
AND THERE WERE GARDENS BRIGHT WITH SINUOUS RILLS,  
WHERE BLOSSOMED MANY AN INCENSE-BEARING TREE;  
AND HERE WERE FORESTS ANCIENT AS THE HILLS,

10

ENFOLDING SUNNY SPOTS OF GREENERY.

BUT OH! THAT DEEP ROMANTIC CHASM WHICH SLANTED  
DOWN THE GREEN HILL ATHWART A CEDARN COVER!

A SAVAGE PLACE! AS HOLY AND ENCHANTED  
AS E'ER BENEATH A WANING MOON WAS HAUNTED  
BY WOMAN WAILING FOR HER DEMON-LOVER!<sup>3</sup>

<sup>4</sup> AND FROM THIS CHASM, WITH CEASELESS TURMOIL SEETHING,  
AS IF THIS EARTH IN FAST THICK PANTS WERE BREATHING,  
A MIGHTY FOUNTAIN MOMENTLY WAS FORCED:

AMID WHOSE SWIFT HALF-INTERMITTED BURST

20

HUGE FRAGMENTS VAULTED LIKE REBOUNDING HAIL,

OR CHAFFY GRAIN BENEATH THE THRESHER'S FLAIL:

AND 'MID THESE DANCING ROCKS AT ONCE AND EVER

IT FLUNG UP MOMENTLY THE SACRED RIVER.

FIVE MILES MEANDERING WITH A MAZY MOTION

25

<sup>1</sup> The quotation is from Theocritus, i. 145:—ἐς ὑστερον ἄδιον φσω.

<sup>2</sup> *The Pains of Sleep.*

<sup>3</sup> And woman wailing for her Demon Lover. Motto to Byron's *Heaven and Earth*, published in *The Liberal*, No. II, January 1, 1823.

<sup>4</sup> With lines 17-24 compare William Bartram's description of the 'Alligator-Hole.' *Travels in North and South Carolina*, 1794, pp. 236-8.

8 there] here S. L. 1828, 1829. 11 Enfolding] And folding 1816. The word 'Enfolding' is a pencil emendation in David Hinves's copy of Christabel. ? by S. T. C. 19 In the early copies of 1893 this line was accidentally omitted.

Through wood and dale the sacred river ran,  
Then reached the caverns measureless to man,  
And sank in tumult to a lifeless ocean :  
And 'mid this tumult Kubla heard from far  
Ancestral voices prophesying war !

30

The shadow of the dome of pleasure  
Floated midway on the waves ;  
Where was heard the mingled measure  
From the fountain and the caves.  
It was a miracle of rare device,

35

A sunny pleasure-dome with caves of ice !<sup>1</sup>

A damsel with a dulcimer  
In a vision once I saw :  
It was an Abyssinian maid,  
And on her dulcimer she played,  
Singing of Mount Abora.

40

Could I revive within me  
Her symphony and song,  
To such a deep delight 'twould win me,

That with music loud and long,  
I would build that dome in air,  
That sunny dome ! those caves of ice !<sup>2</sup>  
And all who heard should see them there,  
And all should cry, Beware ! Beware !

45

His flashing eyes, his floating hair !  
Weave a circle round him thrice,  
And close your eyes with holy dread,  
For he on honey-dew hath fed,  
And drunk the milk of Paradise.

50

1798.

<sup>1</sup> Compare Thomas Maurice's *History of Hindostan*, 1795, i. 107. The reference is supplied by Coleridge in the *Gutch Memorandum Note Book* (B. M. Add. MSS., No. 27,901), p. 47: 'In a cave in the mountains of Cashmere an Image of Ice,' &c.

<sup>2</sup> In her 'Lines to S.T. Coleridge, Esq.,' Mrs. Robinson (Perdita) writes:—

'I'll mark thy "sunny domes" and view  
Thy "caves of ice", and "fields of dew".'

It is possible that she had seen a MS. copy of *Kubla Khan* containing these variants from the text.

RECANTATION<sup>1</sup>

ILLUSTRATED IN THE STORY OF THE MAD OX

## I

AN Ox, long fed with musty hay,  
 And work'd with yoke and chain,  
 Was turn'd out on an April day,  
 When fields are in their best array,  
 And growing grasses sparkle gay  
 At once with Sun and rain.

5

## II

The grass was fine, the Sun was bright—  
 With truth I may aver it;  
 The ox was glad, as well he might,  
 Thought a green meadow no bad sight,  
 And frisk'd,—to shew his huge delight,  
 Much like a beast of spirit.

10

## III

*'Stop, neighbours, stop, why these alarms?  
 The ox is only glad!'*  
 But still they pour from cots and farms—  
 'Halloo!' the parish is up in arms,  
 (A hoaxing-hunt has always charms)  
 'Halloo! the ox is mad.'

15

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post* for July 30, 1798, with the following title and introduction:—‘ORIGINAL POETRY. A TALE. The following amusing Tale gives a very humourous description of the French Revolution, which is represented as an Ox’: included in *Annual Anthology*, 1800, and *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817; reprinted in *Essays on His Own Times*, 1880, iii. 963–9. First collected in *P. and D. W.*, 1877–80. In a copy of the *Annual Anthology* of 1800 Coleridge writes over against the heading of this poem, ‘Written when fears were entertained of an invasion, and Mr. Sheridan and Mr. Tierney were absurdly represented as having recanted because to [The French Revolution (?)] in its origin they, [having been favourable, changed their opinion when the Revolutionists became unfaithful to their principles (?)].’ See *Note to P. W.*, 1893.

The text is that of *Sibylline Leaves* and *Essays on his Own Times*.

---

3 turn'd out] loosen'd M. P. 9 ox] beast M. P.

## IV

The frightened beast scamper'd about—  
 Plunge! through the hedge he drove : 20  
 The mob pursue with hideous rout,  
 A bull-dog fastens on his snout ;  
 ‘He gores the dog! his tongue hangs out !  
 He’s mad, he’s mad, by Jove !’

## V

‘STOP, NEIGHBOURS, STOP !’ aloud did call 25  
 A sage of sober hue.  
 But all at once, on him they fall,  
 And women squeak and children squall,  
 ‘What? would you have him toss us all ?  
 And dam’mee, who are you ?’ 30

## VI

Oh ! hapless sage ! his ears they stun,  
 And curse him o’er and o’er !  
 ‘You bloody-minded dog ! (cries one,) 35  
 To slit your windpipe were good fun,  
 ‘Od blast you for an impious son<sup>1</sup>  
 Of a Presbyterian wh—re !’

## VII

‘You’d have him gore the Parish-priest,  
 And run against the altar !  
 You fiend !’ the sage his warnings ceas’d,  
 And north and south, and west and east, 40  
 Halloo ! they follow the poor beast,  
 Mat, Dick, Tom, Bob and Walter.

## VIII

Old Lewis (’twas his evil day),  
 Stood trembling in his shoes ;

<sup>1</sup> One of the many fine words which the most uneducated had about this time a constant opportunity of acquiring, from the sermons in the pulpit and the proclamations on [in *S. L.*] the —— corners. *An. Anth., S. L.*

19 beast] ox *M. P.* 22 fastens] fasten’d *M. P.* 27 ‘You cruel dog !’ at once they bawl. *M. P.* 31 Oh] Ah ! *M. P., An. Anth.* 35-6 om. Essays, &c. 38 run] drive *M. P.* 39 fiend] rogue *M. P.* 42 Mat, Tom, Bob, Dick *M. P.*

The ox was his—what cou'd he say?  
His legs were stiffen'd with dismay,  
The ox ran o'er him mid the fray,  
And gave him his death's bruise. 45

IX

The frightened beast ran on—(but here,  
    No tale, (tho' in print, more true is)      50  
My Muse stops short in mid career—  
Nay, gentle Reader, do not sneer!  
I cannot chuse but drop a tear,  
    A tear for good old Lewis!)

x

The frightened beast ran through the town,  
All follow'd, boy and dad,  
Bull-dog, parson, shopman, clown:  
The publicans rush'd from the Crown,  
'Halloo! hamstring him! cut him down!'  
**THEY DROVE THE POOR OX MAD.**

xi

Should you a Rat to madness tease  
Why ev'n a Rat may plague you:  
There's no Philosopher but sees  
That Rage and Fear are one disease—  
Though that may burn, and this may freeze,  
They're both alike the Ague.

XII

And so this Ox, in frantic mood,  
Fac'd round like any Bull !  
The mob turn'd tail, and he pursued,  
Till they with heat and fright were stew'd,  
And not a chick of all this brood  
But had his belly full !

49 The baited ox drove on *M. P.*, *An. Anth.* 50 No . . . print] The  
Gospel scarce *M. P.*, *An. Anth.* 53 cannot] could *M. P.* 55 The  
ox drove on, right through the town *M. P.* 62 may] might *M. P.*, *An.*  
*Anth.* 68 any] a mad *M. P.* 70 heat and fright] flight and fear  
*M. P.*, *An. Anth.* 71 this] the *M. P.*

## XIII

Old Nick's astride the beast, 'tis clear !  
 Old Nicholas, to a tittle !  
 But all agree he'd disappear,  
 Would but the Parson venture near,  
 And through his teeth,<sup>1</sup> right o'er the steer,  
 Squirt out some fasting-spittle.

75

## XIV

Achilles was a warrior fleet,  
 The Trojans he could worry :  
 Our Parson too was swift of feet,  
 But shew'd it chiefly in retreat :  
 The victor Ox scour'd down the street,  
 The mob fled hurry-scurry.

80

## XV

Through gardens, lanes and fields new-plough'd, 85  
 Through *his* hedge, and through *her* hedge,  
 He plung'd and toss'd and bellow'd loud—  
 Till in his madness he grew proud  
 To see this helter-skelter crowd  
 That had more wrath than courage !

90

## XVI

Alas ! to mend the breaches wide  
 He made for these poor ninnies,  
 They all must work, whate'er betide,  
 Both days and months, and pay beside  
 (Sad news for Av'rice and for Pride),  
 A *sight* of golden guineas !

95

<sup>1</sup> According to the common superstition there are two ways of fighting with the Devil. You may cut him in half with a straw, or he will vanish if you spit over his horns with a fasting spittle. *Note by S. T. C. in M. P.* According to the superstition of the West-Countries, if you meet the Devil, you may either cut him in half with a straw, or force him to disappear by spitting over his horns. *An. Anth., S. L.*

---

73 beast] ox M. P. 75 agree] agreed M. P. 83 scour'd] drove M. P.  
 91 Alas] Alack M. P.

## XVII

But here once more to view did pop  
 The man that kept his senses—  
 And now he cried,—‘Stop, neighbours, stop !  
 The Ox is mad ! I would not swop,  
 No ! not a school-boy’s farthing top  
 For all the parish-fences.’

100

## XVIII

‘The Ox is mad ! Ho ! Dick, Bob, Mat !  
 ‘What means this coward fuss ?  
 Ho ! stretch this rope across the plat—  
 ’Twill trip him up—or if not that,  
 Why, dam’me ! we must lay him flat—  
 See ! here’s my blunderbuss.’

105

## XIX

‘A lying dog ! just now he said  
 The Ox was only glad—  
 Let’s break his Presbyterian head !’  
 ‘Hush !’ quoth the sage, ‘you’ve been misled ;  
 No quarrels now ! let’s all make head,  
 You DROVE THE POOR OX MAD.’

110

## XX

As thus I sat, in careless chat,  
 With the morning’s wet newspaper,  
 In eager haste, without his hat,  
 As blind and blund’ring as a bat,  
 In came that fierce Aristocrat,  
 Our pursy woollen-dramer.

115

120

## XXI

And so my Muse per force drew bit ;  
 And in he rush’d and panted !  
 ‘Well, have you heard ?’ No, not a whit.  
 ‘What, ha’nt you heard ?’ Come, out with it !  
 ‘That Tierney votes for Mister Pitt,  
 And Sheridan’s recanted !’

125

1798.

99 cried] bawl’d M. P. 103 Tom ! Walter ! Mat ! M. P. 109 lying]  
 bare-faced M. P. 115 But lo ! to interrupt my chat M. P. 119 In  
 came] In rush’d M. P. 122 And he rush’d in M. P.  
 125-6 That Tierney’s wounded Mister Pitt,  
 And his fine tongue enchanted ! M. P.

HEXAMETERS<sup>1</sup>

WILLIAM, my teacher, my friend ! dear William and dear  
Dorothea !

Smooth out the folds of my letter, and place it on desk or  
on table ;

Place it on table or desk ; and your right hands loosely half-  
closing,<sup>2</sup>

Gently sustain them in air, and extending the digit didactic,  
Rest it a moment on each of the forks of the five-forked  
left hand,

Twice on the breadth of the thumb, and once on the tip of  
each finger ;

Read with a nod of the head in a humouring recitativo ;  
And, as I live, you will see my hexameters hopping before  
you.

This is a galloping measure ; a hop, and a trot, and a gallop !

All my hexameters fly, like stags pursued by the stag-  
hounds,

Breathless and panting, and ready to drop, yet flying still  
onwards,<sup>3</sup>

I would full fain pull in my hard-mouthed runaway hunter ;  
But our English Spondeans are clumsy yet impotent curb-  
reins ;

And so to make him go slowly, no way left have I but to  
lame him.

William, my head and my heart ! dear Poet that feelest and  
thinkest !

Dorothy, eager of soul, my most affectionate sister !  
Many a mile, O ! many a wearisome mile are ye distant,  
Long, long comfortless roads, with no one eye that doth  
know us.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Memoirs of W. Wordsworth*, 1851, i. 189–41 : reprinted in *Life* by Prof. Knight, 1889, i. 185. First collected as a whole in *P. W.* [ed. T. Ashe], 1885. Lines 30–6, ‘O what a life is the eye’, &c., were first published in *Friendship’s Offering*, and are included in *P. W.*, 1884. They were reprinted by Cottle in *E. R.*, 1887, i. 226. The ‘Hexameters’ were sent in a letter, written in the winter of 1798–9 from Ratzeburg to the Wordsworths at Goslar.

<sup>2</sup> False metre. *S. T. C.*

<sup>3</sup> ‘Still flying onwards’ were perhaps better. *S. T. C.*

O! it is all too far to send you mockeries idle:  
 Yea, and I feel it not right! But O! my friends, my belovéd! 20  
 Feverish and wakeful I lie,—I am weary of feeling and  
 thinking.  
 Every thought is worn *down*, I am weary yet cannot be  
 vacant.  
 Five long hours have I tossed, rheumatic heats, dry and  
 flushing,  
 Gnawing behind in my head, and wandering and throbbing  
 about me,  
 Busy and tiresome, my friends, as the beat of the boding  
 night-spider.<sup>1</sup> 25

*I forget the beginning of the line :*

. . . . my eyes are a burthen,  
 Now unwillingly closed, now open and aching with darkness.  
 O! what a life is the eye! what a strange and inscrutable  
 essence!  
 Him that is utterly blind, nor glimpses the fire that warms  
 him;  
 Him that never beheld the swelling breast of his mother; 30  
 Him that smiled in his gladness as a babe that smiles in its  
 slumber;  
 Even for him it exists, it moves and stirs in its prison;  
 Lives with a separate life, and ‘Is it a Spirit?’ he murmurs:  
 ‘Sure it has thoughts of its own, and to see is only a language.’

*There was a great deal more, which I have forgotten. . . . The  
 last line which I wrote, I remember, and write it for the truth of  
 the sentiment, scarcely less true in company than in pain and  
 solitude :—*

William, my head and my heart! dear William and dear  
 Dorothea! 35  
 You have all in each other; but I am lonely, and want you!  
 1798-9.

<sup>1</sup> False metre. S. T. C.

28 strange] fine *Letter*, 1798-9, *Cottle*, 1837. 29 Him] He *Cottle*, 1837.  
 30 Him] He *Cottle*, 1837. 31 Him that ne'er smiled at the bosom as  
 babe *Letter*, 1798-9: He that smiled at the bosom, the babe *Cottle*, 1837.  
 32 Even to him it exists, it stirs and moves *Letter*, 1798-9: Even to him  
 it exists, it moves and stirs *Cottle*, 1837. 33 a Spirit] the *Spirit Letter*,  
 1798-9. 34 a] its *Letter*, 1798-9.

## TRANSLATION OF A PASSAGE IN OTTFRIED'S METRICAL PARAPHRASE OF THE GOSPEL

[This paraphrase, written about the time of Charlemagne, is by no means deficient in occasional passages of considerable poetic merit. There is a flow and a tender enthusiasm in the following lines which even in the translation will not, I flatter myself, fail to interest the reader. Ottfried is describing the circumstances immediately following the birth of our Lord. Most interesting is it to consider the effect when the feelings are wrought above the natural pitch by the belief of something mysterious, while all the images are purely natural. Then it is that religion and poetry strike deepest. *Biog. Lit.*, 1817, i. 203-4.<sup>1</sup>]

SHE gave with joy her virgin breast ;  
 She hid it not, she bared the breast  
 Which suckled that divinest babe !  
 Blessed, blessed were the breasts  
 Which the Saviour infant kiss'd ;  
 And blessed, blessed was the mother  
 Who wrapp'd his limbs in swaddling clothes,  
 Singing placed him on her lap,  
 Hung o'er him with her looks of love,  
 And soothed him with a lulling motion.      5

Blessed ! for she shelter'd him  
 From the damp and chilling air ;  
 Blessed, blessed ! for she lay  
 With such a babe in one blest bed,  
 Close as babes and mothers lie !      10

Blessed, blessed evermore,  
 With her virgin lips she kiss'd,  
 With her arms, and to her breast,  
 She embraced the babe divine,  
 Her babe divine the virgin mother !      15

There lives not on this ring of earth  
 A mortal that can sing her praise.  
 Mighty mother, virgin pure,  
 In the darkness and the night  
 For us she bore the heavenly Lord !      20

15      20

? 1799.

<sup>1</sup> First published as a footnote to Chapter X of the *Biographia Literaria* (ed. 1817, i. 203-4). First collected in 1863 (Appendix, pp. 401-2). The translation is from *Otfredi Evang.*, lib. i, cap. xi, ll. 73-108 (included in Schilter's *Thesaurus Antiquitatum Teutonicarum*, pp. 50-1, *Biog. Lit.*, 1847, i. 213). Ottfrid, 'a monk at Weissenburg in Elsass', composed his *Evangeliensbuch* about 870 A.D. (Note by J. Shawcross, *Biog. Lit.*, 1907, ii. 259). As Coleridge says that 'he read through Ottfried's metrical paraphrase of the Gospel' when he was at Göttingen, it may be assumed that the translation was made in 1799.

5 Saviour infant] infant Saviour 1863.

CATULLIAN HENDECASYLLABLES<sup>1</sup>

HEAR, my belovéd, an old Milesian story!—  
 High, and embosom'd in congregated laurels,  
 Glimmer'd a temple upon a breezy headland;  
 In the dim distance amid the skiey billows  
 Rose a fair island; the god of flocks had blest it.      5  
 From the far shores of the bleat-resounding island  
 Oft by the moonlight a little boat came floating,  
 Came to the sea-cave beneath the breezy headland,  
 Where amid myrtles a pathway stole in mazes  
 Up to the groves of the high embosom'd temple.      10  
 There in a thicket of dedicated roses,  
 Oft did a priestess, as lovely as a vision,  
 Pouring her soul to the son of Cytherea,  
 Pray him to hover around the slight canoe-boat,  
 And with invisible pilotage to guide it      15  
 Over the dusk wave, until the nightly sailor  
 Shivering with ecstasy sank upon her bosom.

?1799.

THE HOMERIC HEXAMETER<sup>2</sup>

## DESCRIBED AND EXEMPLIFIED

STRONGLY it bears us along in swelling and limitless billows,  
 Nothing before and nothing behind but the sky and the ocean.

?1799.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. These lines, which are not 'Hendecasyllables', are a translation of part of Friedrich von Matthisson's *Milesisches Märchen*. For the original see Note to *Poems*, 1852, and Appendices of this edition. There is no evidence as to the date of composition. The emendations in lines 5 and 6 were first printed in *P. W.*, 1893.

<sup>2</sup> First published (together with the 'Ovidian Elegiac Metre', &c.) in *Friendship's Offering*, 1834: included in *P. W.*, 1834. An acknowledgement that these 'experiments in metre' are translations from Schiller was first made in a Note to *Poems*, 1844, p. 371. The originals were given on p. 372. See Appendices of this edition. There is no evidence as to the date of composition.

5 blest] plac'd 1834, 1844, 1852.      6 bleat-resounding] bleak-resounding 1834, 1852.      16 nightly] mighty 1834, 1844.

## THE OVIDIAN ELEGIAC METRE

DESCRIBED AND EXEMPLIFIED

IN the hexameter rises the fountain's silvery column ;  
 In the pentameter aye falling in melody back.

? 1799.

ON A CATARACT<sup>1</sup>

FROM A CAVERN NEAR THE SUMMIT OF A MOUNTAIN PRECIPICE

## STROPHE

UNPERISHING youth !  
 Thou leapest from forth  
 The cell of thy hidden nativity ;  
 Never mortal saw  
 The cradle of the strong one ;  
 Never mortal heard  
 The gathering of his voices ;  
 The deep-murmured charm of the son of the rock,  
 That is lisp'd evermore at his slumberless fountain.  
 There's a cloud at the portal, a spray-woven veil  
 At the shrine of his ceaseless renewing ;  
 It embosoms the roses of dawn,  
 It entangles the shafts of the noon,  
 And into the bed of its stillness  
 The moonshine sinks down as in slumber,  
 That the son of the rock, that the nursling of heaven  
 May be born in a holy twilight !

5

10

15

15

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. For the original (*Unsterblicher Jüngling*) by Count F. L. Stolberg see Note to *Poems*, 1844, pp. 371-2, and Appendices of this edition.

*On a Cataract--Title]* Improved from Stolberg. *On a Cataract, &c. 1844, 1852.*

2-3       Thou streamest from forth  
             The cleft of thy ceaseless Nativity *MS. S. T. C.*

*Between 7 and 13.*

The murmuring songs of the Son of the Rock,  
 When he feeds evermore at the slumberless Fountain.  
 There abideth a Cloud,  
 At the Portal a Veil,  
 At the shrine of thy self-renewing ;  
 It embodies the Visions of Dawn,  
 It entangles, &c. *MS. S. T. C.*

## ANTISTROPHE

The wild goat in awe  
 Looks up and beholds  
 Above thee the cliff inaccessible ;—  
 Thou at once full-born  
 Madd'nest in thy joyance,  
 Whirlest, shatter'st, splitt'st,  
 Life invulnerable.

?1799.

20

TELL'S BIRTH-PLACE<sup>1</sup>

IMITATED FROM STOLBERG

## I

MARK this holy chapel well !  
 The birth-place, this, of William Tell.  
 Here, where stands God's altar dread,  
 Stood his parents' marriage-bed.

## II

Here, first, an infant to her breast,  
 Him his loving mother prest ;  
 And kissed the babe, and blessed the day,  
 And prayed as mothers use to pray.

5

## III

'Vouchsafe him health, O God ! and give  
 The child thy servant still to live !'  
 But God had destined to do more  
 Through him, than through an arméd power.

10

## IV

God gave him reverence of laws,  
 Yet stirring blood in Freedom's cause—  
 A spirit to his rocks akin,  
 The eye of the hawk, and the fire therein !

15

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817 : included in 1828, 1829, and 1834. For the original (*Bei Wilhelm Tells Geburtsstätte im Kanton Uri*) by Count F. L. Stolberg see Appendices of this edition. There is no evidence as to the date of composition.

20 Below thee the cliff inaccessible MS. S. T. C.

22-3 Flockest in thy Joyance,  
 Wheelest, shatter'st, start'st. MS. S. T. C.

## V

To Nature and to Holy Writ  
 Alone did God the boy commit:  
 Where flashed and roared the torrent, oft  
 His soul found wings, and soared aloft !

20

## VI

The straining oar and chamois chase  
 Had formed his limbs to strength and grace:  
 On wave and wind the boy would toss,  
 Was great, nor knew how great he was !

## VII

He knew not that his chosen hand,  
 Made strong by God, his native land  
 Would rescue from the shameful yoke  
 Of Slavery——the which he broke !

25

? 1799.

THE VISIT OF THE GODS<sup>1</sup>

IMITATED FROM SCHILLER

NEVER, believe me,  
 Appear the Immortals,  
 Never alone :

Scaree had I welcomed the Sorrow-beguiler,  
 Iacchus ! but in came Boy Cupid the Smiler ;  
 Lo ! Phoebus the Glorious descends from his throne !  
 They advance, they float in, the Olympians all !

With Divinities fills my  
 Terrestrial hall !

How shall I yield you  
 Due entertainment,  
 Celestial quire ?

Me rather, bright guests ! with your wings of upbuoyance  
 Bear aloft to your homes, to your banquets of joyance,

10

5

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817: included in 1828, 1829 ('Vision of the Gods', Contents, vol. i, pp. 322-3 of both editions), and in 1834. For Schiller's original (*Dithyrambe*) see Appendices of this edition.

That the roofs of Olympus may echo my lyre! 15  
 Hah! we mount! on their pinions they waft up my soul!  
 O give me the nectar!  
 O fill me the bowl!  
 Give him the nectar!  
 Pour out for the poet, 20  
 Hebe! pour free!  
 Quicken his eyes with celestial dew,  
 That Styx the detested no more he may view,  
 And like one of us Gods may conceit him to be!  
 Thanks, Hebe! I quaff it! Io Paeon, I cry! 25  
 The wine of the Immortals  
 Forbids me to die!

? 1799.

### FROM THE GERMAN<sup>1</sup>

KNOW'ST thou the land where the pale citrons grow,  
 The golden fruits in darker foliage glow?  
 Soft blows the wind that breathes from that blue sky!  
 Still stands the myrtle and the laurel high!  
 Know'st thou it well, that land, belovéd Friend? 5  
 Thither with thee, O, thither would I wend!  
 ? 1799.

### WATER BALLAD<sup>2</sup>

[FROM THE FRENCH]

'COME hither, gently rowing,  
 Come, bear me quickly o'er  
 This stream so brightly flowing  
 To yonder woodland shore.  
 But vain were my endeavour 5  
 To pay thee, courteous guide;  
 Row on, row on, for ever  
 I'd have thee by my side.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. For the original ('Mignon's Song') in Goethe's *Wilhelm Meister* see Appendices of this edition.

<sup>2</sup> First published in *The Athenaeum*, October 29, 1831. First collected in *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80. For the original ('Barcarolle de Marie') of François Antoine Eugène de Planard see Appendices of this edition.

'Good boatman, prithee haste thee,  
I seek my father-land.'—  
'Say, when I there have placed thee,  
Dare I demand thy hand?'  
'A maiden's head can never  
So hard a point decide;  
Row on, row on, for ever  
I'd have thee by my side.'

10

15

The happy bridal over  
The wanderer ceased to roam,  
For, seated by her lover,  
The boat became her home.  
And still they sang together  
As steering o'er the tide:  
'Row on through wind and weather  
For ever by my side.'

20

?1799.

ON AN INFANT<sup>1</sup>

## WHICH DIED BEFORE BAPTISM

'Be, rather than be called, a child of God,'  
Death whispered! With assenting nod,  
Its head upon its mother's breast,  
The Baby bowed, without demur—  
Of the kingdom of the Blest  
Possessor, not Inheritor.

*April 8, 1799.*

<sup>1</sup> First published in *P. W.*, 1834. These lines were sent in a letter from Coleridge to his wife, dated Göttingen, April 6, 1799:—'Ah, my poor Berkeley!' [b. May 15, 1798, d. Feb. 10, 1799] he writes, 'A few weeks ago an Englishman desired me to write an epitaph on an infant who had died before its Christening. While I wrote it, my heart with a deep misgiving turned my thoughts homeward. "On an Infant", &c. It refers to the second question in the Church Catechism.' *Letters of S. T. C.* 1895, i. 287.

1 called] call'd MS. Letter, 1799. 3 its] the MS. Letter, 1799. 4 bow'd and went without demur MS. Letter, 1799.

SOMETHING CHILDISH, BUT VERY NATURAL<sup>1</sup>

WRITTEN IN GERMANY

IF I had but two little wings  
 And were a little feathery bird,  
 To you I'd fly, my dear!  
 But thoughts like these are idle things,  
 And I stay here.

5

But in my sleep to you I fly:  
 I'm always with you in my sleep!  
 The world is all one's own.  
 But then one wakes, and where am I?  
 All, all alone.

10

Sleep stays not, though a monarch bids:  
 So I love to wake ere break of day:  
 For though my sleep be gone,  
 Yet while 'tis dark, one shuts one's lids,  
 And still dreams on.

15

*April 23, 1799.*

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Annual Anthology* (1800), with the signature 'Cordomi': included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. The lines, without title or heading, were sent in a letter from Coleridge to his wife, dated Göttingen, April 23, 1799 (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 294-5). They are an imitation (see F. Freiligrath's *Biographical Memoir* to the Tauchnitz edition of 1852) of the German Folk-song *Wenn ich ein Vöglein wär*. For the original see Appendices of this edition. The title 'Something Childish', &c., was prefixed in the *Annual Anthology*, 1800.

3 you] you MS. Letter, 1799.

6 you] you MS. Letter, 1799.

HOME-SICK<sup>1</sup>

WRITTEN IN GERMANY

'Tis sweet to him who all the week  
 Through city-crowds must push his way,  
 To stroll alone through fields and woods,  
 And hallow thus the Sabbath-day.

And sweet it is, in summer bower,      5  
 Sincere, affectionate and gay,  
 One's own dear children feasting round,  
 To celebrate one's marriage-day.

But what is all to his delight,  
 Who having long been doomed to roam,      10  
 Throws off the bundle from his back,  
 Before the door of his own home?

Home-sickness is a wasting pang ;  
 This feel I hourly more and more :  
 There's healing only in thy wings,      15  
 Thou breeze that play'st on Albion's shore !

May 26, 1799.

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Annual Anthology* (1800), with the signature 'Cordomi': included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, 1834. The lines, without title or heading, were sent in a letter from Coleridge to Poole, dated May 6, 1799 (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 298). Dr. Carlyon in his *Early Years, &c.* (1856, i. 66), prints stanzas 1, 3, and 4. He says that they were written from Coleridge's dictation, in the Brockenstammbuch at the little inn on the Brocken. The title 'Home-Sick', &c., was prefixed in the *Annual Anthology*, 1800.

[13 a wasting pang] no baby-pang MS. Letter, 1799, *An. Anth.*  
 There's only music in thy wings MS. Letter, 1799.

LINES<sup>1</sup>

WRITTEN IN THE ALBUM AT ELBINGERODE,  
IN THE HARTZ FOREST

I STOOD on Brocken's<sup>2</sup> sovran height, and saw  
Woods crowding upon woods, hills over hills,  
A surging scene, and only limited  
By the blue distance. Heavily my way      5  
Downward I dragged through fir groves evermore,  
Where bright green moss heaves in sepulchral forms  
Speckled with sunshine; and, but seldom heard,  
The sweet bird's song became a hollow sound;  
And the breeze, murmuring indivisibly,      10  
Preserved its solemn murmur most distinct  
From many a note of many a waterfall,  
And the brook's chatter; 'mid whose islet-stones  
The dingy kidling with its tinkling bell  
Leaped frolicsome, or old romantic goat  
Sat, his white beard slow waving. I moved on      15  
In low and languid mood:<sup>3</sup> for I had found

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, September 17, 1799: included in the *Annual Anthology* (1800) [signed C.], in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. The lines were sent in a letter from Coleridge to his wife, dated May 17, 1799. Part of the letter was printed in the *Amulet*, 1829, and the whole in the *Monthly Magazine* for October, 1835. A long extract is given in Gillman's *Life of S. T. C.*, 1838, pp. 125-38.

<sup>2</sup> The highest Mountain in the Harz, and indeed in North Germany.

<sup>3</sup> ————— When I have gaz'd  
From some high eminence on goodly vales,  
And cots and villages embower'd below,  
The thought would rise that all to me was strange  
Amid the scenes so fair, nor one small spot  
Where my tired mind might rest and call it home.

SOUTHEY'S *Hymn to the Penates*.

---

<sup>3</sup> surging] surging M. P.    4 Heavily] Wearily MS. Letter.    6 heaves]  
mov'd MS. Letter.    8 a] an all editions to 1834.    9 breeze] gale MS.  
Letter.    11 waterfall] waterbreak MS. Letter.    12 'mid] on MS. Letter.  
16 With low and languid thought, for I had found MS. Letter.

That outward forms, the loftiest, still receive  
 Their finer influence from the Life within ;—  
 Fair cyphers else: fair, but of import vague  
 Or unconcerning, where the heart not finds  
 History or prophecy of friend, or child,  
 Or gentle maid, our first and early love,  
 Or father, or the venerable name  
 Of our adoréd country ! O thou Queen,  
 Thou delegated Deity of Earth,  
 O dear, dear England ! how my longing eye  
 Turned westward, shaping in the steady clouds  
 Thy sands and high white cliffs !

20

25

## My native Land !

Filled with the thought of thee this heart was proud,  
 Yea, mine eye swam with tears : that all the view      30  
 From sovran Brocken, woods and woody hills,  
 Fleeted away, like a departing dream,  
 Feeble and dim ! Stranger, these impulses  
 Blame thou not lightly ; nor will I profane,  
 With hasty judgment or injurious doubt,      35  
 That man's sublimer spirit, who can feel  
 That God is everywhere ! the God who framed  
 Mankind to be one mighty family,  
 Himself our Father, and the World our Home.

35

*May 17, 1799.*

17 That grandest scenes have but imperfect charms *MS. Letter, M. P., An. Anth.*

18 Where the eye vainly wanders nor beholds *MS. Letter.*  
 Where the sight, &c. *M. P., An. Anth.*

19 One spot with which the heart associates *MS. Letter, M. P., An. Anth.*

19-21 Fair cyphers of vague import, where the Eye  
 Traces no spot, in which the Heart may read  
 History or Prophecy *S. L. 1817, 1828.*

20 Holy Remembrances of Child or Friend *MS. Letter.*  
 Holy Remembrances of Friend or Child *M. P., An. Anth.*

26 eye] eyes *MS. Letter.*

28-30 Sweet native Isle  
 This heart was proud, yea mine eyes swam with tears  
 To think of thee : and all the goodly view *MS. Letter.*

28 O native land *M. P., An. Anth.*      34 I] *I MS. Letter.*      38 family]  
 brother-hood *MS. Letter.*

THE BRITISH STRIPLING'S WAR-SONG<sup>1</sup>

IMITATED FROM STOLBERG

YES, noble old Warrior ! this heart has beat high,  
 Since you told of the deeds which our countrymen wrought ;  
 O lend me the sabre that hung by thy thigh,  
 And I too will fight as my forefathers fought.

Despise not my youth, for my spirit is steel'd,        5  
 And I know there is strength in the grasp of my hand ;  
 Yea, as firm as thyself would I march to the field,  
 And as proudly would die for my dear native land.

In the sports of my childhood I mimick'd the fight,  
 The sound of a trumpet suspended my breath ;        10  
 And my fancy still wander'd by day and by night,  
 Amid battle and tumult, 'mid conquest and death.

My own shout of onset, when the Armies advance,  
 How oft it awakes me from visions of glory ;  
 When I meant to have leapt on the Hero of France,        15  
 And have dash'd him to earth, pale and breathless and gory.

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, August 24, 1799 : included in the *Annual Anthology* for 1800 : reprinted in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 276, in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1848. ('Communicated to the *Bath Herald* during the Volunteer Frenzy of 1803') (*N.S.* xxix, p. 60), and in *Essays on His Own Times*, iii. 988-9. First collected in *P.W.*, 1877-80, ii. 200-1. The MS. is preserved in the British Museum. The text follows that of the *Annual Anthology*, 1800, pp. 173-4. For the original by Count F. L. Stolberg (*Lied eines deutschen Knaben*) see Appendices of this edition.

*The British Stripling's, &c.—Title]* The Stripling's War-Song. Imitated from the German of Stolberg MS. The Stripling's, &c. Imitated from Stolberg *L. R.* The British Stripling's War Song *M. P.*, *An. Anth.*, *Essays*, &c. The Volunteer Stripling. A Song *G. M.*

<sup>1</sup> Yes] My *MS.*, *L. R.*      <sup>2</sup> Since] When *G. M.* which] that *MS.*, *L. R.* our] your *M. P.*, *Essays*, &c.      <sup>3</sup> Ah ! give me the sabre [Falchion] that [which *L. R.*] *MS.*, *Essays*, &c.      <sup>5</sup> O despise *MS.*, *L. R.*, *Essays*, &c.      <sup>7</sup> march] move *MS.*, *L. R.*      <sup>8</sup> would] could *Essays*, &c.      native land] fatherland *L. R.*      <sup>9</sup> fight] sight *G. M.*      <sup>10</sup> sound] shrill [sound] *MS.*, *L. R.*      a] the *M. P.*, *Essays*, &c.      <sup>12</sup> Amid tumults [tumult *L. R.*] and perils *MS.* 'mid] and *Essays*, &c. Mid battle and bloodshed *G. M.*

<sup>13</sup> My own eager shout in the heat of my trance *MS.*, *MS.* correction in *An. Anth.*, *L. R.*

My own shout of onset, { in the heat of my trance *G. M.*, 1893.  
 { when the armies advance *MS.*

<sup>14</sup> visions] dreams full *MS.*, *L. R.* How oft it has wak'd *G. M.*      <sup>15</sup> When I dreamt that I rush'd *G. M.*      <sup>16</sup> breathless] deathless *L. R.* pale, breathless *G. M.*

As late thro' the city with banners all streaming  
 To the music of trumpets the Warriors flew by,  
 With helmet and scimitars naked and gleaming,  
 On their proud-trampling, thunder-hoof'd steeds did they  
 fly ; 20

I sped to yon heath that is lonely and bare,  
 For each nerve was unquiet, each pulse in alarm ;  
 And I hurl'd the mock-lance thro' the objectless air,  
 And in open-eyed dream proved the strength of my arm.

Yes, noble old Warrior ! this heart has beat high, 25  
 Since you told of the deeds that our countrymen wrought ;  
 O lend me the sabre that hung by thy thigh,  
 And I too will fight as my forefathers fought !

? 1799.

### NAMES<sup>1</sup>

[FROM LESSING]

I ASK'D my fair one happy day,  
 What I should call her in my lay ;  
 By what sweet name from Rome or Greece ;

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post* : reprinted in the *Poetical Register* for 1803 (1805) with the signature HARLEY. PHILADELPHIA, in the *Keepsake* for 1829, in Cottle's *Early Recollections* (two versions) 1837, ii. 67, and in *Essays on His Own Times*, iii. 990, 'As it first appeared' in the *Morning Post*. First collected in 1834. For the original (*Die Namen*) see Appendices of this edition.

17 city] town G. M.

17-18                    { with bannerets streaming  
                           { with a terrible beauty

To [And L. R.] the music MS.

19 scimitars] scymetar MS., L. R., *Essays, &c.*, G. M. : scymeter M. P.

Between 20-1

And the Host pacing after in gorgeous parade  
 All mov'd to one measure in front and in rear ;  
 And the Pipe, Drum and Trumpet, such harmony made  
 As the souls of the Slaughter'd would loiter to hear. *MS. erased.*

21 that] which L. R.      22 For my soul MS. erased.      23 I hurl'd my  
 MS., L. R., *Essays, &c.*      objectless] mind-peopled G. M.      26 Since] When  
 G. M.      27 Ah ! give me the falchion MS., L. R.

Names—Title] Song from Lessing M. P., *Essays, &c.* : From the German of Lessing P. R. : Epigram *Keepsake*, 1829, Cottle's *Early Recollections*.

1 fair] love Cottle, E. R.

Lalage, Neaera, Chloris,  
Sappho, Lesbia, or Doris,  
Arethusa or Lucrece.

5

'Ah!' replied my gentle fair,  
'Belovéd, what are names but air?  
Choose thou whatever suits the line;  
Call me Sappho, call me Chloris,  
Call me Lalage or Doris,  
Only, only call me Thine.'

10

1799.

THE DEVIL'S THOUGHTS<sup>1</sup>

## I

FROM his brimstone bed at break of day  
A walking the Devil is gone,  
To visit his snug little farm the earth,  
And see how his stock goes on.

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, September 6, 1799: included in 1828, 1829, and 1834. It is printed separately as the *Devil's Walk*, a Poem, By Professor Porson, London, Marsh and Miller, &c., 1830. In 1827, by way of repudiating Porson's alleged authorship of *The Devil's Thoughts*, Southey expanded the *Devil's Thoughts* of 1799 into a poem of fifty-seven

4 Iphigenia, Clelia, Chloris, *M. P.*, *Cottle*, *E. R.*, *P. R.*  
Neaera, Laura, Daphne, Chloris, *Keepsake*.  
5 Laura, Lesbia, or Doris, *MS. 1799*, *M. P.*, *Cottle*, *E. R.*  
Carina, Lalage, or Doris, *Keepsake*.  
6 Dorimene, or Lucrece, *MS. 1799*, *M. P.*, *Cottle*, *E. R.*, *P. R.*, *Keepsake*.  
8 Belovéd.] Dear one *Keepsake*.

9 Choose thou] Take thou *M. P.*, *P. R.*: Take *Cottle*, *E. R.* 10 Call me  
Laura, call me Chloris *MS. 1799*, *Keepsake*.

10-11 Call me Clelia, call me Chloris,  
Laura, Lesbia or Doris *M. P.*, *Cottle*, *E. R.*

10-12 Clelia, Iphigenia, Chloris,  
Laura, Lesbia, Delia, Doris,  
But don't forget to call me *thine*. *P. R.*

*The Devil's Thoughts.*

3-4 { To look at his little snug farm of the Earth  
{ To visit, &c. 1828, 1829.  
And see how his stock went on. *M. P.*, 1828, 182

## II

Over the hill and over the dale,  
And he went over the plain,  
And backward and forward he switched his long tail  
As a gentleman switches his cane.

5

## III

And how then was the Devil drest?  
Oh! he was in his Sunday's best:  
His jacket was red and his breeches were blue,  
And there was a hole where the tail came through.

10

## IV

He saw a Lawyer killing a Viper  
On a dunghill hard by his own stable;  
And the Devil smiled, for it put him in mind  
Of Cain and his brother, Abel.

15

## V

He saw an Apothecary on a white horse  
Ride by on his vocations,  
And the Devil thought of his old Friend  
Death in the Revelations.<sup>1</sup>

20

stanzas entitled *The Devil's Walk*. See *P.W.*, 1838, iii. pp. 87–100. In the *Morning Post* the poem numbered fourteen stanzas; in 1828, 1829 it is reduced to ten, and in 1834 enlarged to seventeen stanzas. Stanzas iii and xiv–xvi of the text are not in the *M.P.* Stanzas iv and v appeared as iii, iv; stanza vi as ix; stanza vii as v; stanza viii as x; stanza ix as viii; stanza x as vi; stanza xi as vii; stanza xvii as xiv. In 1828, 1829, the poem consists of stanzas i–ix of the text, and of the concluding stanzas stanza xi ('Old Nicholas', &c.) of the *M.P.* version was not reprinted. Stanzas xiv–xvi of the text were first acknowledged by Coleridge in 1834.

<sup>1</sup> And I looked, and behold a pale horse, and his name that sat on him was Death, Rev. vi. 8. *M.P.*

7 switched] swish'd *M.P.*, 1828, 1829. 8 switches] swishes *M.P.*, 1828, 1829. 9–12 Not in *M.P.* 14 On the dunghill beside his stable *M.P.*: On a dung-heap beside his stable 1828, 1829.

15–16 Oh! oh; quoth he, for it put him in mind  
Of the story of Cain and Abel *M.P.*

16 his] his 1828, 1829. 17 He . . . on] An Apothecary on *M.P.*: A Potheccary on 1828, 1829. 18 Ride] Rode *M.P.*, 1828, 1829. 19 vocations] vocation *M.P.* 20 Revelations] Revelation *M.P.*

## VI

He saw a cottage with a double coach-house,  
A cottage of gentility ;  
And the Devil did grin, for his darling sin  
Is pride that apes humility.

## VII

He peep'd into a rich bookseller's shop,  
Quoth he ! we are both of one college !  
For I sate myself, like a cormorant, once  
Hard by the tree of knowledge.<sup>1</sup>

25

<sup>1</sup> This anecdote is related by that most interesting of the Devil's Biographers, Mr. John Milton, in his *Paradise Lost*, and we have here the Devil's own testimony to the truth and accuracy of it. M. P.

' And all amid them stood the TREE OF LIFE  
High, eminent, blooming ambrosial fruit  
Of vegetable gold (query paper-money), and next to Life  
Our Death, the TREE OF KNOWLEDGE, grew fast by.—

\* \* \* \* \*

So climb this first grand thief—  
Thence up he flew, and on the tree of life  
Sat like a cormorant.'—*Par. Lost*, iv.

The allegory here is so apt, that in a catalogue of various readings obtained from collating the MSS. one might expect to find it noted, that for 'LIFE' *Cod. quid. habent*, 'TRADE.' Though indeed THE TRADE, i. e. the bibliopolie, so called *nar' ἔροχήν*, may be regarded as LIFE sensu eminentiori; a suggestion, which I owe to a young retailer in the hosiery line, who on hearing a description of the net profits, dinner parties, country houses, etc., of the trade, exclaimed, 'Ay ! that's what I call LIFE now !'—This 'Life, our Death,' is thus happily contrasted with the fruits of Authorship.—*Sic nos non nobis mellificamus Apes.*

Of this poem, which with the 'Fire, Famine, and Slaughter' first appeared in the *Morning Post* [6th Sept. 1799], the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 9th, and 16th stanzas\* were dictated by Mr. Southey. See Apologetic Preface [to *Fire, Famine and Slaughter*]. [Between the ninth and the concluding stanza, two or three are omitted, as grounded on subjects which have lost their interest—and for better reasons. 1828, 1829.]

If any one should ask who General — meant, the Author begs leave to inform him, that he did once see a red-faced person in a dream whom by the dress he took for a General; but he might have been mistaken, and most certainly he did not hear any names mentioned. In simple verity, the author never meant any one, or indeed any thing but to put a concluding stanza to his doggerel.

\* The three first stanzas, which are worth all the rest, and the ninth 1828, 1829.

<sup>21</sup> saw] past M. P.    <sup>23</sup> And he grinn'd at the sight, for his favourite vice M. P.    <sup>25</sup> peep'd] went M. P., 1828, 1829.    <sup>27</sup> sate myself] myself sate 1828, 1829.    <sup>28</sup> Hard by] Upon M. P. : Fast by 1828, 1829.

## VIII

Down the river did glide, with wind and tide,  
 A pig with vast celerity ;  
 And the Devil look'd wise as he saw how the while,  
 It cut its own throat. ‘There!’ quoth he with a smile,  
 ‘Goes “England's commercial prosperity.”’

## IX

As he went through Cold-Bath Fields he saw  
 A solitary cell ;  
 And the Devil was pleased, for it gave him a hint  
 For improving his prisons in Hell.

## X

He saw a Turnkey in a trice  
 Fetter a troublesome blade ;  
 ‘Nimbly,’ quoth he, ‘do the fingers move  
 If a man be but used to his trade.’

## XI

He saw the same Turnkey unfetter a man,  
 With but little expedition,  
 Which put him in mind of the long debate  
 On the Slave-trade abolition.

45

## XII

He saw an old acquaintance  
 As he passed by a Methodist meeting ;—

29-33            He saw a pig right rapidly  
                     Adown the river float,  
                     The pig swam well, but every stroke  
                     Was cutting his own throat. M. P.

29 did glide] there plied 1828, 1829.

Between 33-4 Old Nicholas grinn'd and swish'd his tail  
 For joy and admiration ;  
 And he thought of his daughter, Victory,  
 And his darling babe, Taxation. M. P.

34-5            As he went through — — fields he look'd  
                     At a M. P.

37 his] the M. P.        in] of M. P.        39 Fetter] Hand-cuff M. P. :  
 Unfetter 1834.

40-1            ‘Nimbly’, quoth he, ‘the fingers move  
                     If a man is but us'd to his trade.’ M. P.

42 unfetter] unfettering M. P.        44 And he laugh'd for he thought  
 of the long debates M. P.        46 saw] met M. P.        47 Just by the  
 Methodist meeting. M. P.

She holds a consecrated key,  
And the devil nods her a greeting.

## xiii

She turned up her nose, and said,  
'Avaunt! my name's Religion,'  
And she looked to Mr. ——  
And leered like a love-sick pigeon.

50

## xiv

He saw a certain minister  
(A minister to his mind)  
Go up into a certain House,  
With a majority behind.

55

## xv

The Devil quoted Genesis  
Like a very learnéd clerk,  
How 'Noah and his creeping things'  
Went up into the Ark.'

60

## xvi

He took from the poor,  
And he gave to the rich,  
And he shook hands with a Scotchman,  
For he was not afraid of the ——

65

## xvii

General ———<sup>1</sup> burning face  
He saw with consternation,  
And back to hell his way did he take,  
For the Devil thought by a slight mistake  
It was general conflagration.

70

1799.

<sup>1</sup> In a MS. copy in the B. M. and in some pirated versions the blank is filled up by the word 'Gascoigne's'; but in a MS. copy taken at Highgate, in June, 1820, by Derwent Coleridge the line runs 'General Tarleton's', &c.

48 holds] held M. P.      key] flag\* M. P.      49 And the Devil nods a greeting. M. P.

50-2 She tip'd him the wink, then frown'd and cri'd  
'Avaunt! my name's ——  
And turn'd to Mr. W —— M. P.

66 General ———] General ———'s M. P.      68 way did take M. P.  
70 general] General M. P.

\* The allusion is to Archbishop Randolph consecrating the Duke of York's banners. See S. T. Coleridge's *Notizbuch aus den Jahren 1795-8* . . . von A. Brandl, 1896, p. 354 (p. 25 a, l. 18 of *Gutch Memorandum Book*, B. M. Add. MSS. 27,901).

LINES COMPOSED IN A CONCERT-ROOM<sup>1</sup>

Nor cold, nor stern, my soul! yet I detest  
 These scented Rooms, where, to a gaudy throng,  
 Heaves the proud Harlot her distended breast,  
 In intricacies of laborious song.

These feel not Music's genuine power, nor deign      5  
 To melt at Nature's passion-warbled plaint;  
 But when the long-breathed singer's uptrilled strain  
 Bursts in a squall—they gape for wonderment.

Hark! the deep buzz of Vanity and Hate!  
 Scornful, yet envious, with self-torturing sneer      10  
 My lady eyes some maid of humbler state,  
 While the pert Captain, or the primmer Priest,  
 Prattles accordant scandal in her ear.

O give me, from this heartless scene released,  
 To hear our old Musician, blind and grey,      15  
 (Whom stretching from my nurse's arms I kissed,)  
 His Scottish tunes and warlike marches play,  
 By moonshine, on the balmy summer-night,  
 The while I dance amid the tedded hay  
 With merry maids, whose ringlets toss in light.      20

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, September 24, 1799: included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. There is no evidence as to the date of composition. In a letter to Coleridge, dated July 5, 1796, Lamb writes 'Have a care, good Master Poet, of the Statute de Contumelias. What do you mean by calling Madame Mara harlots and naughty things? The goodness of the verse would not save you in a Court of Justice'—but it is by no means certain that Lamb is referring to the *Lines Composed in a Concert-Room*, or that there is any allusion in line 3 to Madame Mara. If, as J. D. Campbell suggested, the poem as it appeared in the *Morning Post* is a recast of some earlier verses, it is possible that the scene is Ottery, and that 'Edmund' is the 'Friend who died dead of' a 'Frenzy Fever' (*vide ante*, p. 76). In this case a probable date would be the summer of 1793. But the poem as a whole suggests a later date. Coleridge and Southey spent some weeks at Exeter in September 1799. They visited Ottery St. Mary, and walked through Newton Abbot to Ashburton and Dartmouth. It is possible that the 'Concert-Room,' the 'pert Captain,' and 'primmer Priest' are reminiscences of Exeter, the 'heath-plant,' and the 'ocean caves' of Dartmoor and Torbay. If so, the 'shame and absolute rout' (l. 49 of variant, p. 325) would refer to the victory of Suwaroff over Joubert at Novi, which took place August 15, 1799. See *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 307.

Or lies the purple evening on the bay  
 Of the calm glossy lake, O let me hide  
 Unheard, unseen, behind the alder-trees,  
 For round their roots the fisher's boat is tied,  
 On whose trim seat doth Edmund stretch at ease, 25  
 And while the lazy boat sways to and fro,  
 Breathes in his flute sad airs, so wild and slow,  
 That his own cheek is wet with quiet tears.

But O, dear Anne! when midnight wind careers,  
 And the gust pelting on the out-house shed 30  
 Makes the cock shrilly in the rainstorm crow,  
 To hear thee sing some ballad full of woe,  
 Ballad of ship-wreck'd sailor floating dead,  
 Whom his own true-love buried in the sands!  
 Thee, gentle woman, for thy voice remeasures  
 Whatever tones and melancholy pleasures 35  
 The things of Nature utter; birds or trees,  
 Or moan of ocean-gale in weedy caves,  
 Or where the stiff grass mid the heath-plant waves,  
 Murmur and music thin of sudden breeze. 40

1799.

24 Around whose roots *M.P.*, *S.L.* 40 thin] then *M.P.**After line 40*

Dear Maid! whose form in solitude I seek,  
 Such songs in such a mood to hear thee sing,  
 It were a deep delight!—But thou shalt fling  
 Thy white arm round my neck, and kiss my cheek,  
 And love the brightness of my gladder eye 45  
 The while I tell thee what a holier joy  
 It were in proud and stately step to go,  
 With trump and timbrel clang, and popular shout,  
 To celebrate the shame and absolute rout  
 Unhealable of Freedom's latest foe, 50  
 Whose tower'd might shall to its centre nod.

When human feelings, sudden, deep and vast,  
 As all good spirits of all ages past  
 Were armed in the hearts of living men,  
 Shall purge the earth, and violently sweep  
 These vile and painted locusts to the deep, 55  
 Leaving un——— undebas'd  
 A —— world made worthy of its God. *M.P.*

[The words in lines 57, 58 were left as blanks in the *Morning Post*, from what cause or with what object must remain a matter of doubt.]

WESTPHALIAN SONG<sup>1</sup>

[The following is an almost literal translation of a very old and very favourite song among the Westphalian Boors. The turn at the end is the same with one of Mr. Dibdin's excellent songs, and the air to which it is sung by the Boors is remarkably sweet and lively.]

WHEN thou to my true-love com'st  
Greet her from me kindly ;  
When she asks thee how I fare ?  
Say, folks in Heaven fare finely.

When she asks, 'What ! Is he sick ?'  
Say, dead !—and when for sorrow  
She begins to sob and cry,  
Say, I come to-morrow.

? 1799.

5

HEXAMETERS<sup>2</sup>

## PARAPHRASE OF PSALM XLVI

GÖD is oür Strength and oür Refuge : thëreföre will wë nöt  
trëmblë,

Thö' thë Eärt bë rëmôvëd and thö' thë përpëtüäl Moüntains  
Sink in the Swell of the Ocean ! God is our Strength and  
our Refuge.

There is a River the Flowing whereof shall gladden the City,  
Hallelujah ! the City of God ! Jehova shall help her.

5

The Idölatërs rägëd, the kingdoms were moving in fury ;  
But he uttered his Voice : Earth melted away from beneath  
them.

Halleluja ! th' Eternal is with us, Almighty Jehova !  
Fearful the works of the Lord, yea fearful his Desolations ;  
But He maketh the Battle to cease, he burneth the Spear  
and the Chariot.

10

Halleluja ! th' Eternal is with us, the God of our Fathers !

1799.

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, Sept. 27, 1802 : reprinted in *Essays on His Own Times*, 1850, iii. 992. First collected in *P. W.*, 1877-80, ii. 170.

<sup>2</sup> Now published for the first time. The lines were sent in a letter to George Coleridge dated September 29, 1799. They were prefaced as follows :—'We were talking of Hexameters with you. I will, for want of something better, fill up the paper with a translation of one of my favourite Psalms into that metre which allowing trochees for spondees, as the nature of our Language demands, you will find pretty accurate a scansion.' *Mahomet* and, no doubt, the *Hymn to the Earth* may be assigned to the end of September or the beginning of October, 1799.

HYMN TO THE EARTH<sup>1</sup>[IMITATED FROM STOLBERG'S *HYMNE AN DIE ERDE*]

HEXAMETERS

EARTH! thou mother of numberless children, the nurse and  
the mother,  
Hail! O Goddess, thrice hail! Blest be thou! and, blessing,  
I hymn thee!

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Friendship's Offering*, 1834, pp. 165-7, with other pieces, under the general heading :—*Fragments from the Wreck of Memory: or Portions of Poems composed in Early Manhood: by S. T. Coleridge.* A Note was prefixed :—‘It may not be without use or interest to youthful, and especially to intelligent female readers of poetry, to observe that in the attempt to adapt the Greek metres to the English language, we must begin by substituting *quality* of sound for *quantity*—that is, accentuated or comparatively emphasized syllables, for what in the Greek and Latin Verse, are named long, and of which the prosodial mark is —; and *vice versa*, unaccented syllables for short marked υ. Now the Hexameter verse consists of two sorts of *feet*, the spondee composed of two long syllables, and the dactyl, composed of one long syllable followed by two short. The following verse from the Psalms is a rare instance of a *perfect hexameter* (i. e. line of six feet) in the English language :—

Gōd cāme | ūp wīth ä | shōut: oūr | Lōrd wīth thē | sōund öf ä | trūmpēt.

But so few are the truly *spondeic* words in our language, such as Egyp̄t, ūprōar, türmoil, &c., that we are compelled to substitute, in most instances, the trochee; or — υ, i. e. in such words as mērry, lightl̄y, &c., for the proper spondee. It need only be added, that in the hexameter the fifth foot must be a dactyl, and the sixth a spondee, or trochee. I will end this note with two hexameter lines, likewise from the Psalms :—

Thēre is ä | rīvēr thē | flōwing whēre|öf shäll | gläddēn thē | cīty,  
Hälle|lūjäh thē | cīty öf | Gōd Jē|hōvāh hāth | blēst hēr. S. T. C.’

On some proof-sheets, or loose pages of a copy of *The Hymn* as published in *Friendship's Offering* for 1834, which Coleridge annotated, no doubt with a view to his corrections being adopted in the forthcoming edition of his poems (1834), he adds in MS. the following supplementary note :—‘To make any considerable number of Hexameters feasible in our mono-syllabic trocheeo-iambic language, there must, I fear, be other licenses granted—in the first foot, at least—*ex. gr.* a superfluous υ prefixed in cases of particles such as ‘of’, ‘and’, and the like: likewise — υ — where the stronger accent is on the first syllable.—S. T. C.’

The *Hymn to the Earth* is a free translation of F. L. Stolberg’s *Hymne an die Erde*. (See F. Freiligrath’s *Biographical Memoirs* prefaced to the Tauchnitz edition of the *Poems* published in 1852.) The translation exceeds the German original by two lines. The Hexameters ‘from the Psalms’ are taken from a metrical experiment which Coleridge sent to his brother George, in a letter dated September 29, 1799 (*vide ante*). First collected in 1834. The acknowledgement that the *Hymn to the Earth* is imitated from Stolberg’s *Hymne an die Erde* was first prefixed by J. D. Campbell in 1893.

Forth, ye sweet sounds ! from my harp, and my voice shall  
float on your surges—

Soar thou aloft, O my soul ! and bear up my song on thy  
pinions.

Travelling the vale with mine eyes—green meadows and lake  
with green island,

5

Dark in its basin of rock, and the bare stream flowing in  
brightness,

Thrilled with thy beauty and love in the wooded slope of the  
mountain,

Here, great mother, I lie, thy child, with his head on thy  
bosom !

Playful the spirits of noon, that rushing soft through thy  
tresses,

Green-haired goddess ! refresh me ; and hark ! as they hurry  
or linger,

10

Fill the pause of my harp, or sustain it with musical murmurs.  
Into my being thou murmurrest joy, and tenderest sadness  
Shedd'st thou, like dew, on my heart, till the joy and the  
heavenly sadness

Pour themselves forth from my heart in tears, and the hymn  
of thanksgiving.

Earth ! thou mother of numberless children, the nurse and  
the mother,

15

Sister thou of the stars, and beloved by the Sun, the rejoicer !  
Guardian and friend of the moon, O Earth, whom the comets  
forget not,

Yea, in the measureless distance wheel round and again they  
behold thee !

Fadeless and young (and what if the latest birth of creation ?)  
Bride and consort of Heaven, that looks down upon thee  
enamoured !

20

Say, mysterious Earth ! O say, great mother and goddess,  
Was it not well with thee then, when first thy lap was  
ungirdled,

Thy lap to the genial Heaven, the day that he wooed thee and  
won thee !

Fair was thy blush, the fairest and first of the blushes of  
morning !

Deep was the shudder, O Earth the throe of thy self-reten-  
tion :

25

8 his] its F. O. 1834. 9 that creep or rush through thy tresses F. O.  
1834.

Inly thou strovest to flee, and didst seek thyself at thy centre !  
 Mightier far was the joy of thy sudden resilience ; and forth-with  
 Myriad myriads of lives teemed forth from the mighty embracement.  
 Thousand-fold tribes of dwellers, impelled by thousand-fold instincts,  
 Filled, as a dream, the wide waters ; the rivers sang on their channels ;  
30  
 Laughed on their shores the hoarse seas ; the yearning ocean swelled upward ;  
 Young life lowed through the meadows, the woods, and the echoing mountains,  
 Wandered bleating in valleys, and warbled on blossoming branches.

1799.

MAHOMET<sup>1</sup>

UTTER the song, O my soul ! the flight and return of Mohammed,  
 Prophet and priest, who scatter'd abroad both evil and blessing,  
 Huge wasteful empires founded and hallow'd slow persecution,  
 Soul-withering, but crush'd the blasphemous rites of the Pagan  
4  
 And idolatrous Christians.—For veiling the Gospel of Jesus, They, the best corrupting, had made it worse than the vilest. Wherefore Heaven decreed th' enthusiast warrior of Mecca, Choosing good from iniquity rather than evil from goodness. Loud the tumult in Mecca surrounding the fane of the idol ;—

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. In an unpublished letter to Southey, dated Sept. 25, 1799, Coleridge writes, 'I shall go on with the Mohammed'. There can be no doubt that these fourteen lines, which represent Coleridge's contribution to a poem on 'Mahomet' which he had planned in conjunction with Southey, were at that time already in existence. For Southey's portion, which numbered 109 lines, see *Oliver Newman*. By Robert Southey, 1845, pp. 113-15.

Naked and prostrate the priesthood were laid--the people with  
mad shouts

10

Thundering now, and now with saddest ululation  
Flew, as over the channel of rock-stone the ruinous river  
Shatters its waters abreast, and in mazy uproar bewilder'd,  
Rushes dividuous all—all rushing impetuous onward.

? 1799.

## LOVE<sup>1</sup>

ALL thoughts, all passions, all delights,  
Whatever stirs this mortal frame,  
All are but ministers of Love,  
And feed his sacred flame.

<sup>1</sup> First published (with four preliminary and three concluding stanzas) as the *Introduction to the Tale of the Dark Ladie*, in the *Morning Post*, Dec. 21, 1799 (for complete text with introductory letter vide Appendices): included (as *Love*) in the *Lyrical Ballads* of 1800, 1802, 1805; reprinted with the text of the *Morning Post* in *English Minstrelsy*, 1810 (ii. 131–9) with the following prefatory note:—‘These exquisite stanzas appeared some years ago in

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*Love—Title] Introduction to the Tale of the Dark Ladie M. P. : Fragment,*  
*S. T. Coleridge English Minstrelsy, 1810.*

Opening stanzas

O leave the Lilly on its stem ;  
O leave the Rose upon the spray ;  
O leave the Elder-bloom, fair Maids !  
And listen to my lay.

A Cypress and a Myrtle bough,  
This morn around my harp you twin'd,  
Because it fashion'd mournfully  
Its murmurs in the wind.

And now a Tale of Love and Woe,  
A woeful Tale of Love I sing :  
Hark, gentle Maidens, hark ! it sighs  
And trembles on the string.

But most, my own dear Genevieve !  
It sighs and trembles most for thee !  
O come and hear what cruel wrongs  
Befel the dark Ladie.

The fifth stanza of the *Introduction* finds its place as the fifth stanza of the text, and the sixth stanza as the first.

3 All are] Are all S. L. (For *Are all r. All are.* *Errata*, p. [xi]).

Oft in my waking dreams do I  
 Live o'er again that happy hour,  
 When midway on the mount I lay,  
 Beside the ruined tower.

5

a London Newspaper, and have since that time been republished in Mr. Wordsworth's Lyrical Ballads, but with some alterations; the Poet having apparently relinquished his intention of writing the *Fate of the Dark Ladie*: included (as *Love*) in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, 1829, and 1834. The four opening and three concluding stanzas with prefatory note were republished in *Literary Remains*, 1836, pp. 50-2, and were first collected in 1844. For a facsimile of the MS. of *Love* as printed in the *Lyrical Ballads*, 1800 (i. 138-44), see *Wordsworth and Coleridge MSS.*, edited by W. Hale White, 1897 (between pp. 34-5). For a collation of the *Introduction to the Tale of the Dark Ladie* with two MSS. in the British Museum [Add. MSS., No. 27,902] see *Coleridge's Poems*. A Facsimile Reproduction, &c. Ed. by James Dykes Campbell, 1899, and Appendices of this edition.

It is probable that the greater part of the *Introduction to the Tale of the Dark Ladie* was written either during or shortly after a visit which Coleridge paid to the Wordsworths's friends, George and Mary, and Sarah Hutchinson, at Sockburn, a farm-house on the banks of the Tees, in November, 1799. In the first draft, ll. 13-16, 'She leaned, &c.' runs thus :—

She lean'd against a grey stone rudely carv'd,  
 The statue of an arméd Knight:  
 She lean'd in melancholy mood  
 Amid the lingering light.

In the church at Sockburn there is a recumbent statue of an 'armed knight' (of the Conyers family), and in a field near the farm-house there is a 'Grey-Stone' which is said to commemorate the slaying of a monstrous wyverne or 'worme' by the knight who is buried in the church. It is difficult to believe that the 'arméd knight' and the 'grey stone' of the first draft were not suggested by the statue in Sockburn Church, and the 'Grey-Stone' in the adjoining field. It has been argued that the *Ballad of the Dark Ladie*, of which only a fragment remains, was written after Coleridge returned from Germany, and that the *Introduction to the Tale of the Dark Ladie*, which embodies *Love*, was written at Stowey in 1797 or 1798. But in referring to 'the plan' of the *Lyrical Ballads* of 1798 (*Biog. Lit.*, 1817, Cap. XIV, ii. 3) Coleridge says that he had written the *Ancient Mariner*, and was preparing the *Dark Ladie* and the *Christabel* (both unpublished poems when this Chapter was written), but says nothing of so typical a poem as *Love*. By the *Dark Ladie* he must have meant the unfinished *Ballad of the Dark Ladie*, which, at one time, numbered 190 lines, not the *Introduction to the Tale of the Dark Ladie*, which later on he refers to as the 'poem entitled *Love*' (*Biog. Lit.*, 1817, Cap. XXIV, ii. 298), and which had appeared under that title in the *Lyrical Ballads* of 1800, 1802, and 1805.

In *Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, 1829, and 1834, *Love*, which was the first

The moonshine, stealing o'er the scene  
Had blended with the lights of eve;  
And she was there, my hope, my joy,  
My own dear Genevieve!

10

She leant against the arméd man,  
The statue of the arméd knight;  
She stood and listened to my lay,  
Amid the lingering light.

15

Few sorrows hath she of her own,  
My hope! my joy! my Genevieve!  
She loves me best, whene'er I sing  
The songs that make her grieve.

20

I played a soft and doleful air,  
I sang an old and moving story—  
An old rude song, that suited well  
That ruin wild and hoary.

She listened with a flitting blush,  
With downcast eyes and modest grace;  
For well she knew, I could not choose  
But gaze upon her face.

25

I told her of the Knight that wore  
Upon his shield a burning brand;  
And that for ten long years he wooed  
The Lady of the Land.

30

in order of a group of poems with the sub-title 'Love Poems', was prefaced by the following motto:—

Quas humilis tenero stylus olim effudit in aevo,  
Perlegis hic lacrymas, et quod pharetratus acuta  
Ille puer puero fecit mihi cuspide vulnus.  
Omnia paulatim consumit longior aetas,  
Vivendoque simul morimur, rapimurque manendo.  
Ipse mihi collatus enim non ille videbor:  
Frons alia est, moresque alii, nova mentis imago,  
Voxque aliud sonat—  
Pectore nunc gelido calidos miseremur amantes,  
Jamque arsisse pudet. Veteres tranquilla tumultus  
Mens horret, relegensque alium putat ista locutum.

PETRARCH.

15 lay] harp *M. P., MS., L. B.*      21 soft] sad *M. P., MS. erased.*      23  
suited] fitted *M. P., MS., L. B.*      22 sang] sung *E. M.*      24 That  
ruin] The Ruin *M. P., MS., L. B.* : The ruins *E. M.*      29 that] who *M. P.*  
31 that] how *M. P.*

I told her how he pined : and ah !  
 The deep, the low, the pleading tone  
 With which I sang another's love,      35  
 Interpreted my own.

She listened with a flitting blush,  
 With downcast eyes, and modest grace ;  
 And she forgave me, that I gazed  
 Too fondly on her face !      40

But when I told the cruel scorn  
 That crazed that bold and lovely Knight,  
 And that he crossed the mountain-woods,  
 Nor rested day nor night ;

That sometimes from the savage den,      45  
 And sometimes from the darksome shade,  
 And sometimes starting up at once  
 In green and sunny glade,—

There came and looked him in the face  
 An angel beautiful and bright ;      50  
 And that he knew it was a Fiend,  
 This miserable Knight !

And that unknowing what he did,  
 He leaped amid a murderous band,  
 And saved from outrage worse than death      55  
 The Lady of the Land !

And how she wept, and clasped his knees ;  
 And how she tended him in vain—  
 And ever strove to expiate  
 The scorn that crazed his brain ;—      60

34 The low, the deep MS., L. B.      35 In which I told E. M.      42  
 That] Which MS., L. B.      that] this M. P., MS., L. B.      43 And how he  
 roam'd M. P.      that] how MS. erased.

*Between 44-5*

And how he cross'd the Woodman's paths [path E. M.]  
 Tho' briars and swampy mosses beat,  
 How boughs rebounding scourg'd his limbs,  
 And low stubs gor'd his feet. M. P.

45 That] How M. P., MS. erased.      51 that] how M. P., MS. erased.  
 53 that] how M. P., MS. erased.      54 murderous] lawless M. P.  
 59 ever] meekly M. P. For still she MS. erased.

And that she nursed him in a cave ;  
 And how his madness went away,  
 When on the yellow forest-leaves  
     A dying man he lay ;—

His dying words—but when I reached       65  
 That tenderest strain of all the ditty,  
 My faltering voice and pausing harp  
     Disturbed her soul with pity !

All impulses of soul and sense       70  
 Had thrilled my guileless Genevieve ;  
 The music and the doleful tale,  
     The rich and balmy eve ;

And hopes, and fears that kindle hope,  
 An undistinguishable throng,  
 And gentle wishes long subdued,       75  
     Subdued and cherished long !

She wept with pity and delight,  
 She blushed with love, and virgin-shame ;  
 And like the murmur of a dream,  
     I heard her breathe my name.       80

Her bosom heaved—she stepped aside,  
 As conscious of my look she stepped—  
 Then suddenly, with timorous eye  
     She fled to me and wept.

She half enclosed me with her arms,       85  
 She pressed me with a meek embrace ;  
 And bending back her head, looked up,  
     And gazed upon my face.

'Twas partly love, and partly fear,  
 And partly 'twas a bashful art,       90  
 That I might rather feel, than see,  
     The swelling of her heart.

61 that] how *M. P.*, *MS.* erased.      78 virgin-) maiden- *M. P.*, *MS.*, *L. B.*  
 79 murmur] murmurs *M. P.*

*Between 80-1 I saw her bosom* {heave  
*rise and swell,*  
*Heave and swell with inward sighs—*  
*I could not choose but love to see*  
*Her gentle bosom rise.* *M. P.*, *MS.* erased.

81 Her wet cheek glowed *M. P.*, *MS.* erased.      84 fled] flew *M. P.*

I calmed her fears, and she was calm,  
 And told her love with virgin pride ;  
 And so I won my Genevieve,  
 My bright and beauteous Bride.

95

1799.

## ODE TO GEORGIANA, DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE<sup>1</sup>

### ON THE TWENTY-FOURTH STANZA IN HER 'PASSAGE OVER MOUNT GOTTHARD'

And hail the Chapel ! hail the Platform wild !

Where Tell directed the avenging dart,  
 With well-strung arm, that first preservst his child,  
 Then aim'd the arrow at the tyrant's heart.

SPLENDOUR's fondly-fostered child !

And did you hail the platform wild,  
 Where once the Austrian fell  
 Beneath the shaft of Tell !

O Lady, nursed in pomp and pleasure !

Whence learn'd you that heroic measure ?

5

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, December 24, 1799 (in four numbered stanzas) : included in the *Annual Anthology*, 1800, in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. The Duchess's poem entitled 'Passage over Mount Gothard' was published in the *Morning Chronicle* on Dec. 20 and in the *Morning Post*, Dec. 21, 1799.

94 virgin] maiden MS. erased. 95 so] thus M. P.

After 96 And now once more a tale of woe,  
 A woeful tale of love I sing ;  
 For thee, my Genevieve ! it sighs,  
 And trembles on the string.

When last I sang [sung E. M.] the cruel scorn  
 That craz'd this bold and lonely [lovely E. M.] knight,  
 And how he roam'd the mountain woods,  
 Nor rested day or night ;

I promis'd thee a sister tale  
 Of Man's perfidious Cruelty ;  
 Come, then, and hear what cruel wrong  
 Befel the Dark Ladie.

*End of the Introduction M. P.*

*Ode to Georgiana, &c.—Motto 4 Then wing'd the arrow to M. P., An. Anth.*

*Sub-title] On the 24<sup>th</sup> stanza in her Poem, entitled 'The Passage of the Mountain of St. Gothard.' M. P.*

1-a           Lady, Splendor's foster'd child  
               And did you M. P.

2 you] you An. Anth.

Light as a dream your days their circlets ran,  
 From all that teaches brotherhood to Man  
 Far, far removed! from want, from hope, from fear!  
 Enchanting music lulled your infant ear,      10  
 Obeisance, praises soothed your infant heart:  
 Emblazonments and old ancestral crests,  
 With many a bright obtrusive form of art,  
 Detained your eye from Nature: stately vests,  
 That veiling strove to deck your charms divine,      15  
 Rich viands, and the pleasurable wine,  
 Were yours unearned by toil; nor could you see  
 The unenjoying toiler's misery.  
 And yet, free Nature's uncorrupted child,  
 You hailed the Chapel and the Platform wild,      20  
 Where once the Austrian fell  
 Beneath the shaft of Tell!  
 O Lady, nursed in pomp and pleasure!  
 Whence learn'd you that heroic measure?

There crowd your finely-fibred frame      25  
 All living faculties of bliss;  
 And Genius to your cradle came,  
 His forehead wreathed with lambent flame,  
 And bending low, with godlike kiss  
 Breath'd in a more celestial life;      30  
 But boasts not many a fair compeer  
 A heart as sensitive to joy and fear?  
 And some, perchance, might wage an equal strife,  
 Some few, to nobler being wrought,  
 Corrivals in the nobler gift of thought.      35  
 Yet these delight to celebrate  
 Laurelled War and plumy State;  
 Or in verse and music dress  
 Tales of rustic happiness—

7 your years their courses *M. P.*      9 Ah! far remov'd from want and  
 hope and fear *M. P.*      11 Obeisant praises *M. P.*      14 stately] gorgeous  
*M. P.*      15 *om. An. Anth.*

31 foll.      But many of your many fair compeers  
 [But many of thy many fair compeers *M. P.*]  
 Have frames as sensible of joys and fears;  
 And some might wage an equal strife *An. Anth.*  
 34-5      (Some few perchance to nobler being wrought),  
 Corrivals in the plastic powers of thought. *M. P.*

35 Corrivals] co-rivals *An. Anth.*, S. L. 1828.      36 these] these *S. L.*  
 1828, 1829.

Pernicious tales ! insidious strains ! 40  
 That steel the rich man's breast,  
 And mock the lot unblest,  
 The sordid vices and the abject pains,  
 Which evermore must be  
 The doom of ignorance and penury ! 45

But you, free Nature's, uncorrupted child,  
 You hailed the Chapel and the Platform wild,  
 Where once the Austrian fell  
 Beneath the shaft of Tell !

O Lady, nursed in pomp and pleasure ! 50  
 Whence learn'd you that heroic measure ?

You were a Mother ! That most holy name,  
 Which Heaven and Nature bless,  
 I may not vilely prostitute to those  
 Whose infants owe them less  
 Than the poor caterpillar owes 55  
 Its gaudy parent fly.

You were a mother ! at your bosom fed  
 The babes that loved you. You, with laughing eye,  
 Each twilight-thought, each nascent feeling read, 60  
 Which you yourself created. Oh ! delight !

A second time to be a mother,  
 Without the mother's bitter groans :  
 Another thought, and yet another,  
 By touch, or taste, by looks or tones, 65  
 O'er the growing sense to roll,  
 The mother of your infant's soul !

The Angel of the Earth, who, while he guides<sup>1</sup>  
 His chariot-planet round the goal of day,  
 All trembling gazes on the eye of God 70  
 A moment turned his awful face away ;  
 And as he viewed you, from his aspect sweet  
 New influences in your being rose,  
 Blest intuitions and communions fleet  
 With living Nature, in her joys and woes ! 75

<sup>1</sup> In a copy of the *Annual Anthology* Coleridge drew his pen through ll. 68-77, but the lines appeared in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, and in all later editions (see *P. W.*, 1893, p. 624).

40 insidious] insulting M. P. 45 penury] poverty M. P., *An. Anth.*  
 47 Hail'd the low Chapel M. P., *An. Anth.* 51 Whence] Where *An. Anth.*, S. L. 1828, 1829. 56 caterpillar] Reptile M. P., *An. Anth.* 60 each] and M. P. 72 you] thee M. P. 73 your] thy M. P.

Thenceforth your soul rejoiced to see  
 The shrine of social Liberty !  
 O beautiful ! O Nature's child !  
 'Twas thence you hailed the Platform wild,  
 Where once the Austrian fell                               80  
 Beneath the shaft of Tell !  
 O Lady, nursed in pomp and pleasure !  
 Thence learn'd you that heroic measure.

1799.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL<sup>1</sup>

## I

THE shepherds went their hasty way,  
 And found the lowly stable-shed  
 Where the Virgin-Mother lay :  
 And now they checked their eager tread,  
 For to the Babe, that at her bosom clung,                       5  
 A Mother's song the Virgin-Mother sung.

## II

They told her how a glorious light,  
 Streaming from a heavenly throng,  
 Around them shone, suspending night !  
 While sweeter than a mother's song,  
 Blest Angels heralded the Saviour's birth,                       10  
 Glory to God on high ! and Peace on Earth.

## III

She listened to the tale divine,  
 And closer still the Babe she pressed ;  
 And while she cried, the Babe is mine !                       15  
 The milk rushed faster to her breast :  
 Joy rose within her, like a summer's morn ;  
 Peace, Peace on Earth ! the Prince of Peace is born.

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, December 25, 1799 : included in the *Annual Anthology*, 1800, in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

76 O Lady thence ye joy'd to see M. P.

*A Christmas Carol*—8 a] an M. P., An. Anth.

10 While] And M. P.

## IV

Thou Mother of the Prince of Peace,  
Poor, simple, and of low estate! .. . . . .  
That strife should vanish, battle cease,  
O why should this thy soul elate?  
Sweet Music's loudest note, the Poet's story,—  
Didst thou ne'er love to hear of fame and glory?

20

## V

And is not War a youthful king,  
A stately Hero clad in mail?  
Beneath his footsteps laurels spring;  
Him Earth's majestic monarchs hail  
Their friend, their playmate! and his bold bright eye  
Compels the maiden's love-confessing sigh.

25

30

## VI

'Tell this in some more courtly scene,  
To maids and youths in robes of state!  
I am a woman poor and mean,  
And therefore is my soul elate.  
War is a ruffian, all with guilt defiled,  
That from the aged father tears his child!

35

## VII

'A murderous fiend, by fiends adored,  
He kills the sire and starves the son;  
The husband kills, and from her board  
Steals all his widow's toil had won;  
Plunders God's world of beauty; rends away  
All safety from the night, all comfort from the day.

40

## VIII

'Then wisely is my soul elate,  
That strife should vanish, battle cease:

35 War is a ruffian Thief, with gore defil'd *M. P.*, *An. Anth.*      37 fiend]  
Thief *M. P.*, *An. Anth.*      41 rends] tears *M. P.*

I'm poor and of a low estate,  
 The Mother of the Prince of Peace.  
 Joy rises in me, like a summer's morn:  
 Peace, Peace on Earth! the Prince of Peace is born.'

1799.

TALLEYRAND TO LORD GRENVILLE<sup>1</sup>

## A METRICAL EPISTLE

[As printed in *Morning Post* for January 10, 1800.]To the Editor of *The Morning Post*.

MR. EDITOR,—An unmetered letter from Talleyrand to Lord Grenville has already appeared, and from an authority too high to be questioned: otherwise I could adduce some arguments for the exclusive authenticity of the following metrical epistle. The very epithet which the wise ancients used, ‘*aurea carmina*,’ might have been supposed likely to have determined the choice of the French minister in favour of verse; and the rather when we recollect that this phrase of ‘*golden verses*’ is applied emphatically to the works of that philosopher who imposed *silence* on all with whom he had to deal. Besides is it not somewhat improbable that Talleyrand should have preferred prose to rhyme, when the latter alone *has got the chink?* Is it not likewise curious that in our official answer no notice whatever is taken of the Chief Consul, Bonaparte, as if there had been no such person [man *Essays, &c., 1850*] existing; notwithstanding that his existence is pretty generally admitted, nay that some have been so rash as to believe that he has created as great a sensation in the world as Lord Grenville, or even the Duke of Portland? But the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Talleyrand, is acknowledged, which, in our opinion, could not have happened had he written only that insignificant prose-letter, which seems to precede Bonaparte’s, as in old romances a dwarf always ran before to proclaim the advent or arrival of knight or giant. That Talleyrand’s character and practices more resemble those of some *regular*

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, January 10, 1800: reprinted in *Essays on His Own Times*, 1850, i. 233–7. First collected *P. and D. W.*, 1877, 1880.

---

After 49 Strange prophecy! Could half the screams  
 Of half the men that since have died  
 To realise War’s kingly dreams,  
 Have risen at once in one vast tide,  
 The choral music of Heav’n’s multitude  
 Had been o’erpower’d, and lost amid the uproar rude!  
 ESTEESI.  
*M. P., An. Anth.*

Governments than Bonaparte's I admit; but this of itself does not appear a satisfactory explanation. However, let the letter speak for itself. The second line is supererogative in syllables, whether from the oscitaney of the transcriber, or from the trepidation which might have overpowered the modest Frenchman, on finding himself in the act of writing to so great a man, I shall not dare to determine. A few Notes are added by

Your servant,  
GNOME.

P.S.—As mottoes are now fashionable, especially if taken from out of the way books, you may prefix, if you please, the following lines from Sidonius Apollinaris:

'Saxa, et robora, corneasque fibras  
Mollit dulciloquâ canorus arte!'

TALLEYRAND, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT PARIS, TO  
LORD GRENVILLE, SECRETARY OF STATE IN GREAT BRITAIN FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AUDITOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, A LORD  
OF TRADE, AN ELDER BROTHER OF TRINITY HOUSE, ETC.

My Lord! though your Lordship repel deviation  
From forms long establish'd, yet with high consideration,  
I plead for the honour to hope that no blame  
Will attach, should this letter *begin* with my name.  
I dar'd not presume on your Lordship to bounce, 5  
But thought it more *exquisite* first to *announce*!

My Lord! I've the honour to be Talleyrand,  
And the letter's from *me*! you'll not draw back your hand  
Nor yet take it up by the rim in dismay,  
As boys pick up ha'pence on April fool-day. 10  
I'm no Jacobin foul, or red-hot Cordelier  
That your Lordship's *ungauntleted* fingers need fear  
An infection or burn! Believe me, 'tis true,  
With a scorn like another I look down on the crew  
That bawl and hold up to the mob's detestation 15  
The most delicate wish for a *silent persuasion*.  
*A form long-establish'd* these Terrorists call  
Bribes, perjury, theft, and the devil and all!  
And yet spite of all that the Moralist<sup>1</sup> prates,  
'Tis the keystone and cement of *civilized States*. 20

<sup>1</sup> This sarcasm on the writings of moralists is, in general, extremely just; but had Talleyrand continued long enough in England, he might have found an honourable exception in the second volume of Dr. Paley's *Moral Philosophy*; in which both Secret Influence, and all the other *Established Forms*, are justified and placed in their true light.

Those American *Reps*!<sup>1</sup> And i' faith, they were serious !  
 It shock'd us at Paris, like something mysterious,  
 That men who've a Congress—But no more of 't ! I'm proud  
 To have stood so distinct from the Jacobin crowd.

My Lord ! though the vulgar in wonder be lost at      25  
 My transfigurations, and name me *Apostate*,  
 Such a meaningless nickname, which never incens'd me,  
*Cannot* prejudice you or your Cousin against me :  
 I'm Ex-bishop. What then ? Burke himself would agree  
 That I left not the Church—'twas the Church that left me.  
 My titles prelatie I lov'd and retain'd,      31  
 As long as what *I* meant by Prelate remain'd :  
 And tho' Mitres no longer will *pass* in our mart,  
 I'm *episcopal* still to the core of my heart.  
 No time from my name this my motto shall sever :      35  
 'Twill be *Non sine pulvere palma*<sup>2</sup> for ever !

Your goodness, my Lord, I conceive as excessive,  
 Or I dar'd not present you a scroll so digressive ;  
 And in truth with my pen thro' and thro' I should strike it ;  
 But I hear that your Lordship's own style is just like it.      40  
 Dear my Lord, we are right : for what charms can be shew'd  
 In a thing that goes straight like an old Roman road ?  
 The tortoise crawls straight, the hare doubles about ;  
 And the true line of beauty still winds in and out.  
 It argues, my Lord ! of fine thoughts such a brood in us      45  
 To split and divide into heads multitudinous,  
 While charms that surprise (it can ne'er be denied us)  
 Sprout forth from each head, like the ears from King Midas.  
 Were a genius of rank, like a commonplace dunce,  
 Compell'd to drive on to the main point at once,      50  
 What a plentiful vintage of initiations<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A fashionable abbreviation in the higher circles for Republicans. Thus *Mob* was originally the Mobility.

<sup>2</sup> *Palma non sine pulvere*. In plain English, an itching palm, not without the yellow dust.

<sup>3</sup> The word *Initiations* is borrowed from the new Constitution, and can only mean, in plain English, introductory matter. If the manuscript would bear us out, we should propose to read the line thus—‘What a plentiful *Verbage*, what Initiations !’ inasmuch as *Vintage* must necessarily refer to wine, really or figuratively ; and we cannot guess what species Lord Grenville’s eloquence may be supposed to resemble, unless, indeed, it be *Cowslip* wine. A slashing critic to whom we read the manuscript, proposed to read, ‘What a plenty of Flowers—what initiations !’ and supposes it may allude indiscriminately to Poppy Flowers, or Flour of Brimstone. The most modest emendation, perhaps, would be this—for *Vintage* read *Ventage*.

Would Noble Lords lose in your Lordship's orations.  
 My fancy transports me! As mute as a mouse,  
 And as fleet as a pigeon, I'm borne to the house  
 Where all those who *are* Lords, from father to son, 55  
 Discuss the affairs of all those who are none.  
 I behold you, my Lord! of your feelings quite full,  
 'Fore the woolsack arise, like a sack full of wool!  
 You rise on each Anti-Grenvillian Member,  
 Short, thick and blustrous, like a day in November!¹ 60  
 Short in person, I mean: for the length of your speeches  
 Fame herself, that most famous reporter, ne'er reaches.  
 Lo! Patience beholds you contemn her brief reign,  
 And Time, that all-panting toil'd after in vain,  
 (Like the Beldam who raced for a smock with her grand-  
 child) 65  
 Drops and cries: 'Were such lungs e'er assign'd to a man-  
 child?'  
 Your strokes at her vitals pale Truth has confess'd,  
 And Zeal unresisted entempests your breast!²  
 Though some noble Lords may be wishing to sup,  
 Your merit self-conscious, my Lord, *keeps you up*, 70  
 Unextinguish'd and swoln, as a balloon of paper  
 Keeps aloft by the smoke of its own farthing taper.  
 Ye *sixteens*<sup>³</sup> of Scotland, your snuffs ye must trim;  
 Your *Geminies*, fix'd stars of England! grow dim,

<sup>1</sup> We cannot sufficiently admire the accuracy of this simile. For as Lord Grenville, though short, is certainly not the shortest man in the House, even so is it with the days in November.

<sup>2</sup> An evident plagiarism of the Ex-Bishop's from Dr. Johnson:—

'Existence saw him spurn her bounded reign,  
 And panting Time toil'd after him in vain:  
 His pow'rful strokes presiding Truth confess'd,  
 And unresisting Passion storm'd the breast.'

<sup>3</sup> This line and the following are involved in an almost Lycophrontic tenebrisosity. On repeating them, however, to an *Illuminant*, whose confidence I possess, he informed me (and he ought to know, for he is a Tallow-chandler by trade) that certain candles go by the name of *sixteens*. This explains the whole, the Scotch Peers are destined to burn out—and so are candles! The English are perpetual, and are therefore styled Fixed Stars! The word *Geminies* is, we confess, still obscure to us; though we venture to suggest that it may perhaps be a metaphor (daringly sublime) for the two eyes which noble Lords do in general possess. It is certainly used by the poet Fletcher in this sense, in the 31st stanza of his *Purple Island*:—

'What! shall I then need seek a patron out,  
 Or beg a favour from a mistress' eyes,  
 To fence my song against the vulgar rout,  
 And shine upon me with her *geminies*?'

And but for *a form long-establish'd*, no doubt  
Twinkling faster and faster, ye all would *go out*.

75

*Apropos*, my dear Lord! a ridiculous blunder  
Of some of our Journalists caused us some wonder:  
It was said that in aspect malignant and sinister  
In the Isle of Great Britain a great Foreign Minister      80  
Turn'd as pale as a journeyman miller's frock coat is  
On observing a star that appear'd in *Bootes*!  
When the whole truth was this (O those ignorant brutes!)  
Your Lordship had made his appearance in boots.  
You, my Lord, with your star, sat in boots, and the Spanish  
Ambassador thereupon thought fit to vanish.      86

But perhaps, dear my Lord, among other worse crimes,  
The whole was no more than a lie of *The Times*.

It is monstrous, my Lord! in a civilis'd state  
That such Newspaper rogues should have license to prate.      90  
Indeed printing in general—but for the taxes,  
Is in theory false and pernicious in praxis!  
You and I, and your Cousin, and Abbé Sieyes,  
And all the great Statesmen that live in these days,  
Are agreed that no nation secure is from vi'lence      95  
Unless all who must think are maintain'd all in silence.  
This printing, my Lord—but 'tis useless to mention  
What we both of us think—'twas a curséd invention,  
And Germany might have been honestly prouder  
Had she left it alone, and found out only powder.      100

My Lord! when I think of our labours and cares  
Who rule the Department of foreign affairs,  
And how with their libels these journalists bore us,  
Though Rage I acknowledge than Scorn less decorous;  
Yet their presses and types I could shiver in splinters,      105  
Those Printers' black Devils! those Devils of Printers!  
In case of a peace—but perhaps it were better  
To proceed to the absolute point of my letter:  
For the deep wounds of France, Bonaparte, my master,  
Has found out a new sort of *basilicon* plaster.      110  
But your time, my dear Lord! is your nation's best treasure,  
I've intruded already too long on your leisure;  
If so, I entreat you with penitent sorrow  
To pause, and resume the remainder to-morrow.

APOLOGIA PRO VITA SUA<sup>1</sup>

THE poet in his lone yet genial hour  
 Gives to his eyes a magnifying power:  
 Or rather he emancipates his eyes  
 From the black shapeless accidents of size—  
 In unctuous cones of kindling coal,  
 Or smoke upwreathing from the pipe's trim bole,  
 His gifted ken can see  
 Phantoms of sublimity.

1800.

5

THE KEEPSAKE<sup>2</sup>

THE tedded hay, the first fruits of the soil,  
 The tedded hay and corn-sheaves in one field,  
 Show summer gone, ere come. The foxglove tall  
 Sheds its loose purple bells, or in the gust,  
 Or when it bends beneath the up-springing lark,  
 Or mountain-finching alighting. And the rose  
 (In vain the darling of successful love)  
 Stands, like some boasted beauty of past years,  
 The thorns remaining, and the flowers all gone.  
 Nor can I find, amid my lonely walk  
 By rivulet, or spring, or wet roadside,  
 That blue and bright-eyed floweret of the brook,

5

10

<sup>1</sup> Included in the text of *The Historie and Gestes of Maxilian*: first published in *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*, January, 1822, vol. xi, p. 12. The lines were taken from a MS. note-book, dated August 28, 1800. First collected *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, September 17, 1802 (signed, ΕΣΤΗΣΕ): included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, 1834. 'It had been composed two years before' (1802), *Note*, 1893, p. 624. Mr. Campbell may have seen a dated MS. Internal evidence would point to the autumn of 1802, when it was published in the *Morning Post*.

*Apologia, &c.—Title]* The Poet's ken *P. W.*, 1885: *Apologia, &c.* 1907.

<sup>1-4</sup> The poet's eye in his tipsy hour  
 Hath a magnifying power  
 Or rather emancipates his eyes  
 Of the accidents of size *MS.*

<sup>5</sup> cones] cone *MS.*    <sup>6</sup> Or smoke from his pipe's bole *MS.*    <sup>7</sup> His  
 eye can see *MS.*

*The Keepsake*—<sup>1</sup> om. *M. P.*    <sup>2</sup> one] one *M. P.*    <sup>12</sup> Line 13 precedes  
 line 12 *M. P.*

Hope's gentle gem, the sweet Forget-me-not!<sup>1</sup>  
 So will not fade the flowers which Emmeline  
 With delicate fingers on the snow-white silk      15  
 Has worked (the flowers which most she knew I loved),  
 And, more beloved than they, her auburn hair.

In the cool morning twilight, early waked  
 By her full bosom's joyous restlessness,  
 Softly she rose, and lightly stole along,      20  
 Down the slope coppice to the woodbine bower,  
 Whose rich flowers, swinging in the morning breeze,  
 Over their dim fast-moving shadows hung,  
 Making a quiet image of disquiet  
 In the smooth, scarcely moving river-pool.      25  
 There, in that bower where first she owned her love,  
 And let me kiss my own warm tear of joy  
 From off her glowing cheek, she sate and stretched  
 The silk upon the frame, and worked her name  
 Between the Moss-Rose and Forget-me-not—      30  
 Her own dear name, with her own auburn hair !  
 That forced to wander till sweet spring return,  
 I yet might ne'er forget her smile, her look,  
 Her voice, (that even in her mirthful mood  
 Has made me wish to steal away and weep,)      35  
 Nor yet the entrancement of that maiden kiss  
 With which she promised, that when spring returned,  
 She would resign one half of that dear name,  
 And own thenceforth no other name but mine !

? 1800.

<sup>1</sup> One of the names (and meriting to be the only one) of the *Myosotis Scorpoides Palustris*, a flower from six to twelve inches high, with blue blossom and bright yellow eye. It has the same name over the whole Empire of Germany (*Vergissmeinnicht*) and, we believe, in Denmark and Sweden.

17 they] all M.P.

19 joyous] joyless S.L. 1828.

19-21

joyous restlessness,

Leaving the soft bed to her sister,  
 Softly she rose, and lightly stole along,  
 Her fair face flushing in the purple dawn,  
 Adown the meadow to the woodbine bower M.P.

Between 19-20 Leaving the soft bed to her sleeping sister S.L. 1817.

25 scarcely moving] scarcely-flowing M.P.      39 thenceforth] henceforth M.P.

A THOUGHT SUGGESTED BY A VIEW<sup>1</sup>

OF SADDLEBACK IN CUMBERLAND

ON stern Blencartha's perilous height  
 The winds are tyrannous and strong ;  
 And flashing forth unsteady light  
 From stern Blencartha's skiey height,  
 As loud the torrents throng !

Beneath the moon, in gentle weather,  
 They bind the earth and sky together.

But oh ! the sky and all its forms, how quiet !

The things that seek the earth, how full of noise and riot !

1800.

5

THE MAD MONK<sup>2</sup>

I HEARD a voice from Etna's side ;  
 Where o'er a cavern's mouth  
 That fronted to the south  
 A chesnut spread its umbrage wide :

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Amulet*, 1833, reprinted in *Friendship's Offering*, 1834 : included in *Essays on His Own Times*, 1850, iii. 997. First collected in *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80. These lines are inserted in one of the Malta Notebooks, and appear from the context to have been written at Olevano in 1806 ; but it is almost certain that they belong to the autumn of 1800 when Coleridge made a first acquaintance of 'Blencathara's rugged coves'. The first line is an adaptation of a line in a poem of Isaac Ritson, quoted in Hutchinson's *History of Cumberland*, a work which supplied him with some of the place-names in the Second Part of *Christabel*. Compare, too, a sentence in a letter to Sir H. Davy of Oct. 18, 1800 :—'At the bottom of the Carrock Man . . . the wind became so fearful and *tyrannous*, etc.'

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, October 13, 1800 (signed *Cassiani junior*) : reprinted in *Wild Wreath* (By M. E. Robinson), 1804, pp. 141-4. First collected in *P. W.*, 1880 (ii, Supplement, p. 362).

*A Thought Suggested, &c.—Title]* A Versified Reflection *F. O. 1834*. In *F. O. 1834*, the lines were prefaced by a note :—[A Force is the provincial term in Cumberland for any narrow fall of water from the summit of a mountain precipice. The following stanza (it may not arrogate the name of poem) or versified reflection was composed while the author was gazing on three parallel Forces on a moonlight night, at the foot of the Saddleback Fell. *S. T. C.*] A — by the view of Saddleback, near Threlkeld in Cumberland, *Essays, &c.*

<sup>1</sup> Blencartha's] Blenkarthur's MS. : Blencarthur's *F. O.* : Blenharthur's *Essays, &c.*, 1850.   <sup>2</sup> The wind is *F. O.*   <sup>4</sup> Blencartha's] Blenkarthur's MS. : Blencarthur's *F. O.* : Blenharthur's *Essays, &c.*, 1850.   <sup>8</sup> oh!] ah! *Essays, &c.*

*The Mad Monk—Title]* The Voice from the Side of Etna ; or the Mad Monk : An Ode in Mrs. Ratcliff's Manner *M. P.*

A hermit or a monk the man might be;

5

But him I could not see:

And thus the music flow'd along,

In melody most like to old Sicilian song:

'There was a time when earth, and sea, and skies,

The bright green vale, and forest's dark recess,

10

With all things, lay before mine eyes

In steady loveliness:

But now I feel, on earth's uneasy scene,

Such sorrows as will never cease;—

I only ask for peace;

15

If I must live to know that such a time has been!'

A silence then ensued:

Till from the cavern came

A voice;—it was the same!

And thus, in mournful tone, its dreary plaint renew'd:

'Last night, as o'er the sloping turf I trod,

The smooth green turf, to me a vision gave

Beneath mine eyes, the sod—

The roof of Rosa's grave!

My heart has need with dreams like these to strive,

For, when I woke, beneath mine eyes I found

The plot of mossy ground,

On which we oft have sat when Rosa was alive.—

Why must the rock, and margin of the flood,

Why must the hills so many flow'rets bear,

30

Whose colours to a *murder'd* maiden's blood,

Such sad resemblance wear?—

*'I struck the wound,—this hand of mine!*

For Oh, thou maid divine,

I lov'd to agony!

35

The youth whom thou call'dst thine

Did never love like me!

'Is it the stormy clouds above

That flash'd so red a gleam?

8 to] an *M. P.*

14 sorrows] motions *M. P.*

16 Then wherefore

must I know *M. P.*

23 I saw the sod *M. P.*

26 wak'd *M. P.*

27 The] That *M. P.*

28 On which so oft we sat *M. P.*

31 a wounded

woman's blood *M. P.*

38-9

It is the stormy clouds above

That flash *M. P.*

On yonder downward trickling stream?—  
 'Tis not the blood of her I love.—  
 The sun torments me from his western bed,  
 Oh, let him cease for ever to diffuse  
 Those crimson spectre hues!  
 Oh, let me lie in peace, and be for ever dead!' 45

Here ceas'd the voice. In deep dismay,  
 Down thro' the forest I pursu'd my way.

1800.

### INSCRIPTION FOR A SEAT BY THE ROAD SIDE HALF-WAY UP A STEEP HILL FACING SOUTH<sup>1</sup>

THOU who in youthful vigour rich, and light  
 With youthful thoughts dost need no rest! O thou,  
 To whom alike the valley and the hill  
 Present a path of ease! Should e'er thine eye  
 Glance on this sod, and this rude tablet, stop!  
 'Tis a rude spot, yet here, with thankful hearts,  
 The foot-worn soldier and his family  
 Have rested, wife and babe, and boy, perchance  
 Some eight years old or less, and scantily fed,  
 Garbed like his father, and already bound  
 To his poor father's trade. Or think of him 10

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, October 21, 1800 (Coleridge's birthday) under the signature VENTIFRONS: reprinted in the *Lake Herald*, November 2, 1906. Now first included in Coleridge's *Poetical Works*. Venti Frons is dog-Latin for Windy Brow, a point of view immediately above the River Greta, on the lower slope of Latrigg. Here it was that on Wednesday, August 13, 1800, Wordsworth, his sister Dorothy, and Coleridge 'made the Windy Brow seat'—a 'seat of sods'. In a letter to his printers, Biggs and Cottle, of October 10, 1800, Wordsworth says that 'a friend [the author of the *Ancient Mariner*, &c.] has also furnished me with a few of these Poems in the second volume [of the *Lyrical Ballads*] which are classed under the title of "Poems on the Naming of Places"' (*Wordsworth and Coleridge MSS.*, Ed. W. Hale White, 1897, pp. 27, 28). No such poems or poem appeared, and it has been taken for granted that none were ever written. At any rate one 'Inscription', now at last forthcoming, was something more than a 'story from the land of dreams'!

After 47      The twilight fays came forth in dewy shoon  
 Ere I within the Cabin had withdrawn  
 The goatherd's tent upon the open lawn—  
 That night there was no moon. M.P.

Who, laden with his implements of toil,  
 Returns at night to some far distant home,  
 And having plodded on through rain and mire  
 With limbs o'erlaboured, weak from feverish heat,      15  
 And chafed and fretted by December blasts,  
 Here pauses, thankful he hath reached so far,  
 And 'mid the sheltering warmth of these bleak trees  
 Finds restoration—or reflect on those  
 Who in the spring to meet the warmer sun      20  
 Crawl up this steep hill-side, that needlessly  
 Bends double their weak frames, already bowed  
 By age or malady, and when, at last,  
 They gain this wished-for turf, this seat of sods,  
 Repose—and, well-admonished, ponder here      25  
 On final rest. And if a serious thought  
 Should come uncalled—how soon *thy* motions high,  
 Thy balmy spirits and thy fervid blood  
 Must change to feeble, withered, cold and dry,  
 Cherish the wholesome sadness! And where'er      30  
 The tide of Life impel thee, O be prompt  
 To make thy present strength the staff of all,  
 Their staff and resting-place—so shalt thou give  
 To Youth the sweetest joy that Youth can know;  
 And for thy future self thou shalt provide      35  
 Through every change of various life, a seat,  
 Not built by hands, on which thy inner part,  
 Imperishable, many a grievous hour,  
 Or bleak or sultry may repose—yea, sleep  
 The sleep of Death, and dream of blissful worlds,      40  
 Then wake in Heaven, and find the dream all true.  
 1800.

A STRANGER MINSTREL<sup>1</sup>

WRITTEN [TO MRS. ROBINSON,] A FEW WEEKS BEFORE HER DEATH

As late on Skiddaw's mount I lay supine,  
 Midway th' ascent, in that repose divine

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Memoirs of the late Mrs. Robinson*, Written by herself. With some Posthumous Pieces, 1801, iv. 141: reprinted in *Poetical Works of the late Mrs. Mary Robinson*, 1806, i. xlvi, li. First collected in *P. W.*, 1877-80.

<sup>1</sup> Skiddaw's] Skiddaw 1801.

When the soul centred in the heart's recess  
Hath quaff'd its fill of Nature's loveliness,  
Yet still beside the fountain's marge will stay

5

And fain would thirst again, again to quaff;  
Then when the tear, slow travelling on its way,

Fills up the wrinkles of a silent laugh—

In that sweet mood of sad and humorous thought  
A form within me rose, within me wrought

10

With such strong magic, that I cried aloud,  
'Thou ancient Skiddaw by thy helm of cloud,

And by thy many-colour'd chasms deep,

And by their shadows that for ever sleep,

By yon small flaky mists that love to creep

15

Along the edges of those spots of light,

Those sunny islands on thy smooth green height,

And by yon shepherds with their sheep,

And dogs and boys, a gladsome crowd,

That rush e'en now with clamour loud

20

Sudden from forth thy topmost cloud,

And by this laugh, and by this tear,

I would, old Skiddaw, she were here!

A lady of sweet song is she,

Her soft blue eye was made for thee!

25

O ancient Skiddaw, by this tear,

I would, I would that she were here!'

Then ancient Skiddaw, stern and proud,

In sullen majesty replying,

Thus spake from out his helm of cloud

30

(His voice was like an echo dying!):—

'She dwells belike in scenes more fair,

And scorns a mount so bleak and bare.'

I only sigh'd when this I heard,

Such mournful thoughts within me stirr'd

35

That all my heart was faint and weak,

So sorely was I troubled!

No laughter wrinkled on my cheek,

But O the tears were doubled!

But ancient Skiddaw green and high

40

Heard and understood my sigh;

8 wrinkles] wrinkle 1801.  
sunshine 1801.

13 chasms so deep 1801.

32 in] by 1801.

38 on] now 1801.

17 sunny]

And now, in tones less stern and rude,  
As if he wish'd to end the feud,  
Spake he, the proud response renewing  
(His voice was like a monarch wooing) :—  
'Nay, but thou dost not know her might,

45

The pinions of her soul how strong !  
But many a stranger in my height  
Hath sung to me her magic song,

50

Sending forth his ecstasy  
In her divinest melody,  
And hence I know her soul is free,  
She is where'er she wills to be,  
Unfetter'd by mortality !

Now to the "haunted beach" can fly,<sup>1</sup>

55

Beside the threshold scourged with waves,  
Now where the maniac wildly raves,  
"Pale moon, thou spectre of the sky !" <sup>2</sup>  
No wind that hurries o'er my height  
Can travel with so swift a flight.

60

I too, methinks, might merit  
The presence of her spirit !  
To me too might belong  
The honour of her song and witching melody,  
Which most resembles me,

65

Soft, various, and sublime,  
Exempt from wrongs of Time !'

Thus spake the mighty Mount, and I  
Made answer, with a deep-drawn sigh :—  
'Thou ancient Skiddaw, by this tear,  
I would, I would that she were here !'

70

November, 1800.

<sup>1</sup> 'The Haunted Beach,' by Mrs. Robinson, was included in the *Annual Anthology* for 1800.

<sup>2</sup> From 'Jasper', a ballad by Mrs. Robinson, included in the *Annual Anthology* for 1800.

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57 Now to the maniac while he raves 1801.

ALCAEUS TO SAPPHO<sup>1</sup>

How sweet, when crimson colours dart  
 Across a breast of snow,  
 To see that you are in the heart  
 That beats and throbs below.

All Heaven is in a maiden's blush,  
 In which the soul doth speak,  
 That it was you who sent the flush  
 Into the maiden's cheek.

Large steadfast eyes! eyes gently rolled  
 In shades of changing blue,  
 How sweet are they, if they behold  
 No dearer sight than you.

And, can a lip more richly glow,  
 Or be more fair than this?  
 The world will surely answer, No!  
 I, SAPPHO, answer, Yes!

Then grant one smile, tho' it should mean  
 A thing of doubtful birth;  
 That I may say these eyes have seen  
 The fairest face on earth!

1800.

5

10

15

20

THE TWO ROUND SPACES ON THE TOMBSTONE<sup>2</sup>

THE Devil believes that the Lord will come,  
 Stealing a march without beat of drum,

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, November 24, 1800: reprinted in *Letters from the Lake Poets*, 1889, p. 16. It is probable that these lines, sent in a letter to Daniel Stuart (Editor of the *Morning Post*), dated October 7, 1800, were addressed to Mrs. Robinson, who was a frequent contributor of verses signed 'Sappho'. A sequence of Sonnets entitled 'Sappho to Phaon' is included in the collected edition of her *Poems*, 1806, iii, 63-107.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, December 4, 1800: reprinted in *Fraser's Magazine* both in February and in May, 1833, and in Payne Collier's *Old Man's Diary*, i. 35. First collected in *P. W.*, 1834, with the

*Two Round Spaces, &c.—Title] Skeltoniad (To be read in the Recitative Lilt) MS. Letter: The Two Round Spaces; A Skeltoniad M. P.*

<sup>1</sup> The Devil believes the *Fraser* (1).

About the same time that he came last,  
On an Old Christmas-day in a snowy blast:  
Till he bids the trump sound neither body nor soul stirs, 5  
For the dead men's heads have slipt under their bolsters.

Oh ! ho ! brother Bard, in our churchyard,  
Both beds and bolsters are soft and green ;  
Save one alone, and that's of stone,  
And under it lies a Counsellor keen. 10  
'Twould be a square tomb, if it were not too long ;  
And 'tis fenced round with irons sharp, spear-like, and strong.

This fellow from Aberdeen hither did skip  
With a waxy face and a blubber lip,

following Prefatory Note :—‘See the apology for the “Fire, Famine, and Slaughter”, in first volume. This is the first time the author ever published these lines. He would have been glad, had they perished; but they have now been printed repeatedly in magazines, and he is told that the verses will not perish. Here, therefore, they are owned, with a hope that they will be taken—as assuredly they were composed—in mere sport.’ These lines, which were directed against Sir James Mackintosh, were included in a letter to [Sir] Humphry Davy, dated October 9, 1800. There is a MS. version in the British Museum in the handwriting of R. Heber, presented by him to J. Mitford. Mr. Campbell questions the accuracy of Coleridge’s statement with regard to his never having published the poem on his own account. But it is possible that Davy may have sent the lines to the Press without Coleridge’s authority. Daniel Stuart, the Editor of the *Morning Post*, in the *Gentleman’s Magazine* for May, 1838, says that ‘Coleridge sent one [poem] attacking Mackintosh, too obviously for me not to understand it, and of course it was not published. Mackintosh had had one of his front teeth broken and the stump was black’. Stuart remembered that the lines attacking his brother-in-law had been suppressed, but forgot that he had inserted the rest of the poem. The poem as printed in 1893, despite the heading, does not follow the text of the *Morning Post*.

---

3 time] hour MS. Letter, M. P., *Fraser* (1), *Collier*. At the same hour MS. H. 4 an Old] a cold *Fraser* (1) : On Old MS. H. 5 neither] nor MS. Letter, M. P. Till he bids the trump blow nor *Fraser* (2) : Till the trump then shall sound no *Collier* : Until that time not a body or MS. H. 6 their] the *Collier*. 7 Oh ! ho!] Ho ! Ho ! M. P., MS. H. : Oho *Fraser* (1). Brother *Collier*. our] our MS. Letter. 8 Both bed and bolster *Fraser* (2). The graves and bolsters MS. H. 9 Except one alone MS. H. 10 under] in *Fraser* (2). 11 This tomb would be square M. P. : 'Twould be a square stone if it were not so long *Fraser* (1). It would be square MS. H. tomb] grave *Collier*. 12 And 'tis railed round with iron tall M. P. : And 'tis edg'd round with iron *Fraser* (1) : 'Tis fence'd round with irons tall *Fraser* (2) : And 'tis fence'd round with iron tall *Collier*. 'tis] its MS. H. 13-20 om. M. P. 13 From Aberdeen hither this fellow MS. Letter. hither] here *Fraser* (2). 14 blubber] blabber MS. Letter, *Fraser* (1), (2), MS. H.

And a black tooth in front, to show in part  
What was the colour of his whole heart.

This Counsellor sweet,  
This Scotchman complete,  
(The Devil scotch him for a snake!)  
I trust he lies in his grave awake. 20

On the sixth of January,  
When all around is white with snow,  
As a Cheshire yeoman's dairy,  
Brother Bard, ho! ho! believe it, or no,  
On that stone tomb to you I'll show  
Two round spaces void of snow.

I swear by our Knight, and his forefathers' souls,  
That in size and shape they are just like the holes  
    In the house of privity  
    Of that ancient family.

On those two places void of snow,  
There have sat in the night for an hour or so,  
Before sunrise, and after cock-crow,  
He kicking his heels, she cursing her corns,  
All to the tune of the wind in their horns,  
The Devil and his Grannam,  
With a snow-blast to fan 'em;  
Expecting and hoping the trumpet to blow,  
For they are cock-sure of the fellow below !

1800.

15 in front] before *MS. H.* 17 Counsellor] lawyer so *MS. H.* 19 The Devil] Apollyon *MS. Letter.* scotch] scotch *Collier.* 20 trust] hope *Collier.* (A humane wish) Note in *MS. Letter.* 21 sixth] seventh *M.P., Collier:* fifth *MS. H.* 22 When all is white both high and low *MS. Letter, M.P., Fraser* (2), *Collier, MS. H.:* When the ground All around Is as white as snow *Fraser* (1). 23 As] Or *Fraser* (1): Like *MS. H.* 24 ho! ho!] oho! *Fraser* (1). it] me *M.P.* 25 stone] tall *MS. Letter, M.P., Fraser* (2), *Collier.* On the stone to you *MS. H.* 25-6 om. *Fraser* (1). Between 25-6 After sunset and before cockerow *M.P.* Before sunrise and after cockerow *Fraser* (2). 26 void] clear *M.P.* 27 I swear by the might Of the darkness of night, I swear by the sleep of our forefathers' souls *Fraser* (1). souls] soul *MS. H.* 26-8 om. *Fraser* (2). 28 Both in shape and size *MS. Letter:* Both in shape and in size *M.P.:* That in shape and size they resembled *Fraser* (1), *Collier:* That in shape and size they are just like the Hole *MS.H.* 29 In the large house *M.P.*

**29-30** In mansions not seen by the general eye  
Of that right ancient family. *Fraser* (1).

31 two] round *MS. Letter.* places] spaces *Collier, MS. H.* void] clear *M.P.*  
32 Have sat *Fraser (1), (2)*: There have sat for an hour *MS. H.* 33 om. *MS.*  
*Letter, M.P.* 36 Devil] De'il *M.P.* 37 With the snow-drift *M.P.*: With  
a snow-blast to fan *MS. Letter.* 38 Expecting and wishing the trumpet  
would blow *Collier.*

THE SNOW-DROP<sup>1</sup>

I

FEAR no more, thou timid Flower !  
 Fear thou no more the winter's might,  
 The whelming thaw, the ponderous shower,  
 The silence of the freezing night !  
 Since Laura murmur'd o'er thy leaves  
 The potent sorceries of song,  
 To thee, meek Flowret ! gentler gales  
 And cloudless skies belong.

2

Her eye with tearful meanings fraught,  
 She gaz'd till all the body mov'd  
 Interpreting the Spirit's thought—  
 The Spirit's eager sympathy

10

<sup>1</sup> First published in *P. W.*, 1893. The two last stanzas [\*] were omitted as 'too imperfect to print'. The MS. bears the following heading: LINES WRITTEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PERUSAL OF MRS. ROBINSON'S SNOW DROP.

*To the Editor of the Morning Post.*

Sir,

I am one of your many readers who have been highly gratified by some extracts from Mrs. Robinson's 'Walsingham': you will oblige me by inserting the following lines [sic] immediately on the perusal of her beautiful poem 'The Snow Drop'.—ZAGRI.

The 'Lines' were never sent or never appeared in the *Morning Post*.

To the Snow Drop.

I

Fear thou no more the wintry storm,  
 Sweet Flowret, blest by LAURA's song :  
 She gaz'd upon thy slender form,  
 The mild Enchantress gaz'd so long ;  
 That trembling as she saw thee droop,  
 Poor Trembler ! o'er thy snowy bed,  
 With imitation's sympathy  
 She too inclin'd her head.

2

She droop'd her head, she stretch'd her arm,  
 She whisper'd low her witching rhymes :  
 A gentle Sylphid heard the charm,  
 And bore thee to Pierian climes !  
 Fear thou no more the sparkling Frost,  
 The Tempest's Howl, the Fog-damp's gloom :  
 For thus mid laurels evergreen  
 Immortal thou shalt bloom !

Now trembled with thy trembling stem,  
 And while thou droopdest o'er thy bed,  
 With sweet unconscious sympathy  
 • Inclin'd the drooping head.<sup>1</sup>

15

## 3

She droop'd her head, she stretch'd her arm,  
 She whisper'd low her witching rhymes,  
 Fame unreluctant heard the charm,  
 And bore thee to Pierian climes!  
 Fear thou no more the Matin Frost  
 That sparkled on thy bed of snow;  
 For there, mid laurels ever green,  
 Immortal thou shalt blow.

20

## 4

Thy petals boast a white more soft,  
 The spell hath so perfum'd thee,  
 That careless Love shall deem thee oft  
 A blossom from his Myrtle tree.  
 Then, laughing at the fair deceit,  
 Shall race with some Etesian wind

25

30

<sup>1</sup> The second stanza of Mrs. Robinson's ('Perdita') 'Ode to the Snow-drop' runs thus :

All weak and wan, with head inclin'd,  
 Its parent-breast the drifted snow,  
 It trembles, while the ruthless wind  
 Bends its slim form; the tempest lowers,  
 Its em'rald eye drops crystal show'rs  
 On its cold bed below.

*The Poetical Works of the late Mrs. Mary Robinson, 1806, i. 123.*

## 3 [Stanza 2]

With eager feelings unreprov'd  
 With steady eye and brooding thought  
 Her eye with tearful meanings fraught,  
~~My Faney saw her gaze at thee~~  
 She gaz'd till all the body mov'd  
 Till all the moving body caught,  
 Interpreting, the Spirit's sympathy—  
 The Spirit's eager sympathy  
 Now trembled with thy trembling stem,  
 And while thou droop'dst o'er thy bed,  
 With sweet unconscious sympathy

Inclin'd { her portraiture  
 { the drooping head.

First draft of Stanzas 1-3. MS. S. T. C.

To seek the woven arboret  
Where Laura lies reclin'd.

## 5

All them whom Love and Fancy grace,  
When grosser eyes are clos'd in sleep,  
The gentle spirits of the place  
Waft up the insuperable steep,  
On whose vast summit broad and smooth  
Her nest the Phœnix Bird conceals,  
And where by cypresses o'erhung  
The heavenly Lethe steals.

35

40

## 6

A sea-like sound the branches breathe,  
StIRR'd by the Breeze that loiters there ;  
And all that stretch their limbs beneath,  
Forget the coil of mortal care.  
Strange mists along the margins rise,  
To heal the guests who thither come,  
And fit the soul to re-endure  
Its earthly martyrdom.

45

## 7\*

The margin dear to moonlight elves  
Where Zephyr-trembling Lilies grow,  
And bend to kiss their softer selves  
That tremble in the stream below :—  
There nightly borne does Laura lie  
A magic Slumber heaves her breast :  
Her arm, white wanderer of the Harp,  
Beneath her cheek is prest.

50

55

## 8\*

The Harp uphung by golden chains  
Of that low wind which whispers round,  
With coy reproachfulness complains,  
In snatches of reluctant sound :  
The music hovers half-perceiv'd,  
And only moulds the slumberer's dreams ;  
Remember'd LOVES relume her cheek  
With Youth's returning gleams.

60

1800.

36 insuperable] unvoyageable *MS. erased.*

53-4 Along that marge does Laura lie

Full oft where Slumber heaves her breast *MS. erased.*64 With Beauty's morning gleams *MS. erased.*

ON REVISITING THE SEA-SHORE<sup>1</sup>

AFTER LONG ABSENCE, UNDER STRONG MEDICAL RECOMMENDATION  
NOT TO BATHE

God be with thee, gladsome Ocean !  
How gladly greet I thee once more !  
Ships and waves, and ceaseless motion,  
And men rejoicing on thy shore.

Dissuading spake the mild Physician,       5  
' Those briny waves for thee are Death !'  
But my soul fulfilled her mission,  
And lo ! I breathe untroubled breath !

Fashion's pining sons and daughters,  
That seek the crowd they seem to fly,       10  
Trembling they approach thy waters ;  
And what cares Nature, if they die ?

Me a thousand hopes and pleasures,  
A thousand recollections bland,  
Thoughts sublime, and stately measures,       15  
Revisit on thy echoing strand :

Dreams (the Soul herself forsaking),  
Tearful raptures, boyish mirth ;  
Silent adorations, making  
A blessed shadow of this Earth !       20

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post* (signed Εαρησε), September 15, 1801 : included in the *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. The lines were sent in an unpublished letter to Southey dated August 15, 1801. An autograph MS. is in the possession of Miss Arnold of Foxhow.

*On Revisiting, &c.—Title]* A flowering weed on the sweet Hill of Poesy *MS. Letter, 1801* : Ode After Bathing in the Sea, Contrary to Medical Advice *M. P.* After bathing in the Sea at Scarborough in company with T. Hutchinson. Aug. 1801 *MS. A.*

<sup>3</sup> ceaseless] endless *MS. Letter, M. P., MS. A.*       4 men] life *MS. Letter,*  
{ mild *MS. A.*  
*M. P., MS. A.*       5 Gravely said the { sage Physician *MS. Letter* : Mildly said  
the mild Physician *M. P.*       6 To bathe me on thy shores were death *MS. Letter, M. P., MS. A.*       10 That love the city's gilded sty *MS. Letter, M. P., MS. A.*       13 hopes] loves *MS. Letter, MS. A.*       16 echoing] sounding  
*MS. Letter, M. P., MS. A.*       18 Grief-like transports *MS. Letter, M. P., MS. A.*

O ye hopes, that stir within me,  
 Health comes with you from above !  
 God is with me, God is in me !  
 I cannot die, if Life be Love.

*August, 1801.*

### ODE TO TRANQUILLITY<sup>1</sup>

TRANQUILLITY ! thou better name  
 Than all the family of Fame !  
 Thou ne'er wilt leave my riper age  
 To low intrigue, or factious rage ;  
 For oh ! dear child of thoughtful Truth,      5  
 To thee I gave my early youth,  
 And left the bark, and blest the steadfast shore,  
 Ere yet the tempest rose and scared me with its roar.

Who late and lingering seeks thy shrine,  
 On him but seldom, Power divine,      10  
 Thy spirit rests ! Satiety  
 And Sloth, poor counterfeits of thee,

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post* (with two additional stanzas at the commencement of the poem), December 4, 1801 : reprinted in *The Friend* (without heading or title), No. 1, Thursday, June 1, 1809 : included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. The stanzas were not indented in the *Morning Post* or *The Friend*.

*Ode to Tranquillity—Title] Vix ea nostra voco M. P.*

*Before 1*

What Statesmen scheme and Soldiers work,  
 Whether the Pontiff or the Turk,  
 Will e'er renew th' expiring lease  
 Of Empire ; whether War or Peace  
 Will best play off the CONSUL's game ;  
 What fancy-figures, and what name  
 Half-thinking, sensual France, a natural Slave,  
 On those ne'er-broken Chains, her self-forg'd Chains, will grave ;

Disturb not me ! Some tears I shed  
 When bow'd the Swiss his noble head ;  
 Since then, with quiet heart have view'd  
 Both distant Fights and Treaties crude,  
 Whose heap'd up terms, which Fear compels,  
 (Live Discord's green Combustibles,  
 And future Fuel of the funeral Pyre)  
 Now hide, and soon, alas ! will feed the low-burnt Fire.    *M. P.*

*8 tempest] storm-wind M. P.*

Mock the tired worldling. Idle Hope  
 And dire Remembrance interlope,  
 To vex the feverish slumbers of the mind :      15  
 The bubble floats before, the spectre stalks behind.

But me thy gentle hand will lead  
 At morning through the accustomed mead ;  
 And in the sultry summer's heat  
 Will build me up a mossy seat ;      20  
 And when the gust of Autumn crowds,  
 And breaks the busy moonlight clouds,  
 Thou best the thought canst raise, the heart attune,  
 Light as the busy clouds, calm as the gliding moon.

The feeling heart, the searching soul,      25  
 To thee I dedicate the whole !  
 And while within myself I trace  
 The greatness of some future race,  
 Aloof with hermit-eye I scan  
 The present works of present man—      30  
 A wild and dream-like trade of blood and guile,  
 Too foolish for a tear, too wicked for a smile !

1801.

TO ASRA<sup>1</sup>

ARE there two things, of all which men possess  
 That are so like each other and so near,  
 As mutual Love seems like to Happiness ?  
 Dear Asra, woman beyond utterance dear !  
 This Love which ever welling at my heart,      5  
 Now in its living fount doth heave and fall,  
 Now overflowing pours thro' every part  
 Of all my frame, and fills and changes all,  
 Like vernal waters springing up through snow,

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1893. The Sonnet to 'Asra' was prefixed to the MS. of *Christabel* which Coleridge presented to Miss Sarah Hutchinson in 1804.

15 To] And *The Friend*, 1809.      17 thy gentle hand] the power Divine M. P.      21 Autumn] Summer M. P.      23 The best the thoughts will lift M. P.      26 thee] her M. P.  
 28 some] a M. P.      29 hermit] hermit's M. P.

This Love that seeming great beyond the power      10  
 Of growth, yet seemeth ever more to grow,  
 Could I transmute the whole to one rich Dower  
 Of Happy Life, and give it all to Thee,  
 Thy lot, methinks, were Heaven, thy age, Eternity!

1801.

THE SECOND BIRTH<sup>1</sup>

THERE are two births, the one when Light  
 First strikes the new-awaken'd sense—  
 The other when two souls unite,  
 And we must count our life from then.

When you lov'd me, and I lov'd you,      5  
 Then both of us were born anew.

? 1801.

LOVE'S SANCTUARY<sup>2</sup>

THIS yearning heart (Love! witness what I say)  
 Enshrines thy form as purely as it may,  
 Round which, as to some spirit uttering bliss,  
 My thoughts all stand ministrant night and day  
 Like saintly Priests, that dare not think amiss.

? 1801.

DEJECTION: AN ODE<sup>3</sup>

[WRITTEN APRIL 4, 1802]

Late, late yestreen I saw the new Moon,  
 With the old Moon in her arms;  
 And I fear, I fear, my Master dear!  
 We shall have a deadly storm.

*Ballad of Sir Patrick Spence.*

## I

WELL! If the Bard was weather-wise, who made  
 The grand old ballad of Sir Patrick Spence,

<sup>1</sup> First published from a MS. in 1893.<sup>2</sup> First published from a MS. in 1893.<sup>3</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, October 4, 1802. Included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. The Ode was sent in a*Dejection: An Ode—Title] Dejection, &c., written April 4, 1802 M.P.**¤ grand] dear Letter to Sotheby, July 19, 1802.*

This night, so tranquil now, will not go hence  
 Unroused by winds, that ply a busier trade  
 Than those which mould yon cloud in lazy flakes,      5  
 Or the dull sobbing draft, that moans and rakes  
 Upon the strings of this Æolian lute,  
 Which better far were mute.  
 For lo ! the New-moon winter-bright !  
 And overspread with phantom light,      10  
 (With swimming phantom light o'erspread  
 But rimmed and circled by a silver thread)  
 I see the old Moon in her lap, foretelling  
 The coming-on of rain and squally blast.  
 And oh ! that even now the gust were swelling,      15  
 And the slant night-shower driving loud and fast !  
 Those sounds which oft have raised me, whilst they awed,  
 And sent my soul abroad,  
 Might now perhaps their wonted impulse give,  
 Might startle this dull pain, and make it move and live !      20

letter to W. Sotheby, dated Keswick, July 19, 1802 (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 379-84). Two other MS. versions are preserved at Coleorton (*P. W. of W. Wordsworth*, ed. by William Knight, 1896, iii. App., pp. 400, 401). Lines 37, 38 were quoted by Coleridge in the *Historie and Gests of Maximilian* (first published in *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* for January, 1822, and reprinted in *Miscellanies, &c.*, ed. by T. Ashe, 1885, p. 282): 1. 38 by Wordsworth in his pamphlet on *The Convention of Cintra*, 1809, p. 135 : lines 47-75, followed by lines 29-38, were quoted by Coleridge in *Essays on the Fine Arts*, No. III (which were first published in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, Sept. 10, 1814, and reprinted by Cottle, E.R., 1837, ii. 201-40); and lines 21-28, *ibid.*, in illustration of the following *Scholium* :—‘We have sufficiently distinguished the beautiful from the agreeable, by the sure criterion, that when we find an object agreeable, the *sensation* of pleasure always precedes the judgment, and is its determining cause. We *find* it agreeable. But when we declare an object beautiful, the contemplation or intuition of its beauty precedes the *feeling* of complacency, in order of nature at least : nay in great depression of spirits may even exist without sensibly producing it.’ Lines 76-93 are quoted in a letter to Southey of July 29, 1802; lines 76-83 are quoted in a letter to Allsop, September 30, 1819, *Letters, &c.*, 1836, i. 17. Lines 80, 81 are quoted in the *Biographia Literaria*, 1817, ii. 182, and lines 87-93 in a letter to Josiah Wedgwood, dated October 20, 1802 : see Cottle’s *Rem.*, 1848, p. 44, and *Tom Wedgwood* by R. B. Litchfield, 1903, pp. 114, 115.

5 Than that which moulds yon clouds *Letter, July 19, 1802.*      cloud]  
 clouds *M.P.*, *S. L.*      6 moans] drones *Letter, July 19, 1802, M. P.*      12 by]  
 with *Letter, July 19, 1802.*      17-20 om. *Letter, July 19, 1802, M. P.*

## II

A grief without a pang, void, dark, and drear,  
 A stifled, drowsy, unimpassioned grief,  
 Which finds no natural outlet, no relief,  
 In word, or sigh, or tear—

O Lady ! in this wan and heartless mood,  
 To other thoughts by yonder throstle woo'd,      25  
     All this long eve, so balmy and serene,  
 Have I been gazing on the western sky,  
     And its peculiar tint of yellow green :

And still I gaze—and with how blank an eye !      30  
 And those thin clouds above, in flakes and bars,  
 That give away their motion to the stars ;  
 Those stars, that glide behind them or between,  
 Now sparkling, now bedimmed, but always seen :  
 Yon crescent Moon, as fixed as if it grew      35  
 In its own cloudless, starless lake of blue ;  
 I see them all so excellently fair,  
 I see, not feel, how beautiful they are !

21-8 Quoted as illustrative of a ‘Scholium’ in *Felix Farley’s Journal*, 1814.  
 22 stifled] stifling *Letter, July 19, 1802.*      23 Which] That *Letter, July 19, 1802, F. F.*

*Between 24-7*

This, William, well thou knowst  
 Is the sore evil which I dread the most  
 And oft’nest suffer. In this heartless mood  
 To other thoughts by yonder throstle woo’d  
 That pipes within the larch-tree, not unseen,  
 The larch, that pushes out in tassels green  
 Its bundled leaflets, woo’d to mild delights  
 By all the tender sounds and gentle sights  
 Of this sweet primrose-month and vainly woo’d !  
 O dearest Poet in this heartless mood. *Letter, July 19, 1802.*

25 O Edmund M.P. : O William Coleorton MS. : O dearest Lady in this  
 heartless mood F.F.      26 by yon sweet throstle woo’d F.F.      28 on]  
 at F.F.      29 peculiar] celestial F.F.      yellow green] yellow-green  
*Letter, July 19, 1802, M. P.*      30 blank] black Cottle, 1837.

35-6 Yon crescent moon that seems as if it grew  
 In its own starless, cloudless F.F.

*Between 36-7* A boat becalm’d ! thy own sweet sky-canoe *Letter, July 19, 1802 :* A boat becalm’d ! a lovely sky-canoe M.P.      38 I see not feel M.P.,  
*Letter, July 19, 1802 : I see . . . they are F. F.*

## III

My genial spirits fail;  
 And what can these avail  
 To lift the smothering weight from off my breast?  
 It were a vain endeavour,  
 Though I should gaze for ever  
 On that green light that lingers in the west:  
 I may not hope from outward forms to win  
 The passion and the life, whose fountains are within.

## IV

O Lady! we receive but what we give,  
 And in our life alone does Nature live:  
 Ours is her wedding garment, ours her shroud!  
 And would we aught behold, of higher worth,  
 Than that inanimate cold world allowed  
 To the poor loveless ever-anxious crowd,  
 Ah! from the soul itself must issue forth  
 A light, a glory, a fair luminous cloud  
 Enveloping the Earth—  
 And from the soul itself must there be sent  
 A sweet and potent voice, of its own birth,  
 Of all sweet sounds the life and element!

## V

O pure of heart! thou need'st not ask of me  
 What this strong music in the soul may be!  
 What, and wherein it doth exist,  
 This light, this glory, this fair luminous mist,  
 This beautiful and beauty-making power.

Joy, virtuous Lady! Joy that ne'er was given,  
 Save to the pure, and in their purest hour,  
 Life, and Life's effluence, cloud at once and shower,

45-6 Quoted in the *Gests of Maxilian*, Jan. 1822, and *Convention of Cintra*, 1809, p. 135. 47 Lady] *Wordsworth Letter, July 19, 1802*: William Coleorton MS.: Edmund M. P., F. F. 48 our] *our M. P., F. F.* 51 allowed] *allow'd Letter, July 19, 1802, M. P.* 57 potent] *powerful Letter, July 19, 1802, F. F.*

V] Stanza v is included in stanza iv in M. P.

60 What] *What Letter, July 19, 1802.* 61 exist] subsist F. F. 64 virtuous Lady] blameless Poet *Letter, July 19, 1802*: virtuous Edmund M.P. Joy, O belovéd, Joy that F. F. 66 om. *Letter, July 19, 1802, M. P.*: Life of our life the parent and the birth F. F. effluence] effulgence S. L. Corr. in *Errata* p. [xii], and in text by S. T. C. (MS.).

Joy, Lady! is the spirit and the power,  
 Which wedding Nature to us gives in dower  
     A new Earth and new Heaven,  
 Undreamt of by the sensual and the proud—  
 Joy is the sweet voice, Joy the luminous cloud—  
     We in ourselves rejoice!  
 And thence flows all that charms or ear or sight,  
     All melodies the echoes of that voice,  
 All colours a suffusion from that light.

70

75

## VI

There was a time when, though my path was rough,  
     This joy within me dallied with distress,  
 And all misfortunes were but as the stuff  
     Whence Fancy made me dreams of happiness:  
 For hope grew round me, like the twining vine,  
     80 And fruits, and foliage, not my own, seemed mine.  
 But now afflictions bow me down to earth:  
     Nor care I that they rob me of my mirth;  
     But oh! each visitation  
 Suspends what nature gave me at my birth,  
     85 My shaping spirit of Imagination.

67 Lady] *William Letter, July 19, 1802*: Edmund M. P.: om. F. F.     68  
 Which] *That Letter, July 19, 1802*.                         69 A new heaven and new  
 earth F. F.   70 earth F. F.   71 *om. Letter, July 19, 1802*: This is the strong voice, this  
 the luminous cloud F. F.   72 We, we ourselves *Letter, July 19, 1802*,  
 M. P.: Our inmost selves F. F.                                     73 *flows*] comes *Letter, July 19, 1802*.  
 charms] glads F. F.   74 *the echoes*] an echo *Letter, July 19, 1802*.

*After 75* Calm steadfast Spirit, guided from above,  
 O Wordsworth! friend of my devoutest choice,  
 Great son of genius! full of light and love  
     Thus, thus dost thou rejoice.  
 To thee do all things live from pole to pole,  
 Their life the eddying of thy living soul  
 Brother and friend of my devoutest choice  
 Thus may'st thou ever, evermore rejoice! *Letter, July 19, 1802*.

*Before 76* Yes, dearest poet, yes *Letter, July 19, 1802*: Yes, dearest William! Yes! *Coleorton MS.* [Stanza v] Yes, dearest Edmund, yes M. P. 76 The time when *Letter, Sept. 30, 1819*.     77 This] *The Letters, July 19, 1802, Sept. 30, 1819*.     I had a heart that dallied *Letter to Southey, July 29, 1802*. 80 For] When *Biog. Lit., Letter, Sept. 30, 1819*.     twining] climbing *Letters, July 19, 29, 1802, Biog. Lit.*     80-1 Quoted in *Biog. Lit., 1817, ii. 180*.     81 fruits] fruit *Letter, July 19, 1802*.     82 But seared thoughts now *Letter, Sept. 30, 1819*.     83 care] car'd *Letter, July 19, 1802*.     86 In M. P. the words 'The sixth and seventh stanzas omitted' preceded three rows of four asterisks, lines 87-93 (quoted in *Letter to Josiah Wedgwood, Oct. 20, 1802*) being omitted. The Coleorton MS. ends with line 86.

For not to think of what I needs must feel,  
 But to be still and patient, all I can;  
 And haply by abstruse research to steal  
 From my own nature all the natural man—  
 This was my sole resource, my only plan:  
 Till that which suits a part infects the whole,  
 And now is almost grown the habit of my soul.

90

## VII

Hence, viper thoughts, that coil around my mind,  
 Reality's dark dream!  
 I turn from you, and listen to the wind,  
 Which long has raved unnoticed. What a scream  
 Of agony by torture lengthened out  
 That lute sent forth! Thou Wind, that rav'st without,  
 Bare crag, or mountain-tairn,<sup>1</sup> or blasted tree,  
 Or pine-grove whither woodman never clomb,  
 Or lonely house, long held the witches' home,  
 Methinks were fitter instruments for thee,  
 Mad Lutanist! who in this month of showers,  
 Of dark-brown gardens, and of peeping flowers,  
 Mak'st Devils' yule, with worse than wintry song,  
 The blossoms, buds, and timorous leaves among.  
 Thou Actor, perfect in all tragic sounds!  
 Thou mighty Poet, e'en to frenzy bold!  
 What tell'st thou now about?  
 'Tis of the rushing of an host in rout,  
 With groans, of trampled men, with smarting wounds—

95

100

105

110

<sup>1</sup> Tairn is a small lake, generally if not always applied to the lakes up in the mountains and which are the feeders of those in the valleys. This address to the Storm-wind [wind *S. L.*], will not appear extravagant to those who have heard it at night and in a mountainous country.

87 think] *think Letters, July 19, 29, 1802.* 91 was] *Letter, Sept. 30, 1819.*  
 only] *wisest Letters, July 19, 29, 1802.* 92 Till] *And Letters, July 19, 29, 1802.* 93 habit] *temper Letters, July 19, 29, Oct. 20, 1802.*

94-5 Nay [O M. P.] wherefore did I let it haunt my mind  
 This dark distressful dream. *Letter, July 19, 1802.*

96 you] *it Letter, July 19, 1802, M. P.* 99 That lute sent out! O thou  
 wild storm without *Letter, July 19, 1802.* O Wind M. P. 104 who]  
 that *Letter, July 19, 1802.* 112 With many groans from men *Letter,*  
*July 19, 1802:* With many groans of men *M. P.*

At once they groan with pain, and shudder with the cold !  
But hush ! there is a pause of deepest silence !

And all that noise, as of a rushing crowd,                            115  
With groans, and tremulous shudderings—all is over—  
It tells another tale, with sounds less deep and loud !  
A tale of less affright,  
And tempered with delight,  
As Otway's self had framed the tender lay,—                            120  
'Tis of a little child  
Upon a lonesome wild,  
Not far from home, but she hath lost her way :  
And now moans low in bitter grief and fear,  
And now screams loud, and hopes to make her mother hear.

## VIII

'Tis midnight, but small thoughts have I of sleep :                    126  
Full seldom may my friend such vigils keep !  
Visit her, gentle Sleep ! with wings of healing,  
And may this storm be but a mountain-birth,  
May all the stars hang bright above her dwelling,                    130  
Silent as though they watched the sleeping Earth !  
With light heart may she rise,  
Gay fancy, cheerful eyes,  
Joy lift her spirit, joy attune her voice ;  
To her may all things live, from pole to pole,                    135  
Their life the eddying of her living soul !  
O simple spirit, guided from above,  
Dear Lady friend devoutest of my choice,  
Thus mayest thou ever, evermore rejoice.

1802.

115 Again ! but all that noise *Letter, July 19, 1802.*      117 And it has  
other sounds less fearful and less loud *Letter, July 19, 1802.*      120  
Otway's self] thou thyself *Letter, July 19, 1802.*: Edmund's self *M. P.*  
122 lonesome] heath *Letter, July 19, 1802.*      124 bitter] utter *Letter,*  
*July 19, 1802, M. P.*      125 hear] hear *Letter, July 19, 1802, M. P.*

VIII] om. *Letter, July 19, 1802.*      126 but] and *M. P.*      128 her]  
him *M. P.*      130 her] his *M. P.*      131 watched] watch'd *M. P.*      132  
she] he *M. P.*

*After 133*

And sing his lofty song and teach me to rejoice !  
O Edmund, friend of my devoutest choice,  
O rais'd from anxious dread and busy care,  
By the immenseness of the good and fair  
Which thou see'st everywhere,

THE PICTURE<sup>1</sup>

## OR THE LOVER'S RESOLUTION

THROUGH weeds and thorns, and matted underwood  
 I force my way ; now climb, and now descend  
 O'er rocks, or bare or mossy, with wild foot  
 Crushing the purple whorts ;<sup>2</sup> while oft unseen,  
 Hurrying along the drifted forest-leaves,      5  
 The scared snake rustles. Onward still I toil,  
 I know not, ask not whither ! A new joy,  
 Lovely as light, sudden as summer gust,  
 And gladsome as the first-born of the spring,  
 Beckons me on, or follows from behind,      10  
 Playmate, or guide ! The master-passion quelled,  
 I feel that I am free. With dun-red bark  
 The fir-trees, and the unfrequent slender oak,  
 Forth from this tangle wild of bush and brake  
 Soar up, and form a melancholy vault      15  
 High o'er me, murmuring like a distant sea.  
 Here Wisdom might resort, and here Remorse ;  
 Here too the love-lorn man, who, sick in soul,  
 And of this busy human heart aweary,  
 Worships the spirit of unconscious life      20

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, September 6, 1802: included in the *Poetical Register* for 1802 (1804), in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

It has been pointed out to me (by Mr. Arthur Turnbull) that the conception of the 'Resolution' that failed was suggested by Gessner's Idyll *Der feste Vorsatz* ('The Fixed Resolution') :—S. Gessner's *Schriften*, i. 104–7; *Works*, 1802, ii. 219–21.

<sup>2</sup> *Vaccinium Myrtillus*, known by the different names of Whorts, Whortleberries, Bilberries; and in the North of England, Blea-berries and Bloom-berries. [Note by S. T. C. 1802.]

Joy lifts thy spirit, joy attunes thy voice,  
 To thee do all things live from pole to pole,  
 Their life the eddying of thy living soul !  
 O simple Spirit, guided from above,  
 O lofty Poet, full of life and love,      10  
 Brother and Friend of my devoutest choice,  
 Thus may'st thou ever, evermore rejoice !  
 ΕΣΤΗΣΕ. M. P.

[Note.—For lines 7, 8, 11, 12 of this variant, vide *ante*, variant of lines 75 foll.]

<sup>3</sup> wild] blind M. P., P. R.      17–26 om. M. P., P. R.      17–25 Quoted in *Letter to Cottle*, May 27, 1814.      18 love-lorn] woe-worn (heart-sick erased) *Letter*, 1814.      20 unconscious life *Letter*, 1814.

In tree or wild-flower.—Gentle lunatic !  
 If so he might not wholly cease to be,  
 He would far rather not be that he is ;  
 But would be something that he knows not of,  
 In winds or waters, or among the rocks !

25

But hence, fond wretch ! breathe not contagion here !  
 No myrtle-walks are these : these are no groves  
 Where Love dare loiter ! If in sullen mood  
 He should stray hither, the low stumps shall gore  
 His dainty feet, the briar and the thorn

30

Make his plumes haggard. Like a wounded bird  
 Easily caught, ensnare him, O ye Nymphs,  
 Ye Oreads chaste, ye dusky Dryades !  
 And you, ye Earth-winds ! you that make at morn  
 The dew-drops quiver on the spiders' webs !

35

You, O ye wingless Airs ! that creep between  
 The rigid stems of heath and bitten furze,  
 Within whose scanty shade, at summer-noon,  
 The mother-sheep hath worn a hollow bed—  
 Ye, that now cool her fleece with dropless damp,

40

Now pant and murmur with her feeding lamb.  
 Chase, chase him, all ye Fays, and elfin Gnomes !  
 With prickles sharper than his darts bemock  
 His little Godship, making him perforce  
 Creep through a thorn-bush on yon hedgehog's back.

45

This is my hour of triumph ! I can now  
 With my own fancies play the merry fool,  
 And laugh away worse folly, being free.  
 Here will I seat myself, beside this old,  
 Hollow, and weedy oak, which ivy-twine

50

Clothes as with net-work : here will I couch my limbs,  
 Close by this river, in this silent shade,  
 As safe and sacred from the step of man  
 As an invisible world—unheard, unseen,  
 And listening only to the pebbly brook

55

*22 wholly cease to BE Letter, 1814. . . . 27 these] here M. P. . . . 28 For Love to dwell in ; the low stumps would gore M. P., P. R.*

31-3

till, like wounded bird

Easily caught, the dusky Dryades  
 With prickles sharper than his darts would mock.  
*His little Godship . . . . . M. P., P. R.*

*34-42, 44 om. M. P., P. R. . . . 51 here will couch M. P., P. R., S. L. . . . 55 brook] stream M. P., P. R., S. L. (for stream read brook *Errata*, S. L., p. [xi]).*

That murmurs with a dead, yet tinkling sound ;  
Or to the bees, that in the neighbouring trunk  
Make honey-hoards. The breeze, that visits me,  
Was never Love's accomplice, never raised

The tendril ringlets from the maiden's brow,  
And the blue, delicate veins above her cheek ;  
Ne'er played the wanton—never half disclosed  
The maiden's snowy bosom, scattering thence  
Eye-poisons for some love-distempered youth,  
Who ne'er henceforth may see an aspen-grove  
Shiver in sunshine, but his feeble heart  
Shall flow away like a dissolving thing.

60

65

Sweet breeze ! thou only, if I guess aright,  
Liftest the feathers of the robin's breast,  
That swells its little breast, so full of song,  
Singing above me, on the mountain-ash.

70

And thou too, desert stream ! no pool of thine,  
Though clear as lake in latest summer-eve,  
Did e'er reflect the stately virgin's robe,  
The face, the form divine, the downcast look

75

Contemplative ! Behold ! her open palm  
Presses her cheek and brow ! her elbow rests  
On the bare branch of half-uprooted tree,  
That leans towards its mirror ! Who erewhile  
Had from her countenance turned, or looked by stealth,

81

(For Fear is true-love's cruel nurse), he now  
With steadfast gaze and unoffending eye,  
Worships the watery idol, dreaming hopes  
Delicious to the soul, but fleeting, vain,  
E'en as that phantom-world on which he gazed,

85

But not unheeded gazed : for see, ah ! see,  
The sportive tyrant with her left hand plucks

56-7

yet bell-like sound

Tinkling, or bees *M. P., P. R., S. L.* 1828.

58 The] This *M. P., P. R., S. L.* 70 That swells its] Who swells his  
*M. P., P. R., S. L.* 75 the] her downcast *M. P., P. R.* Her face, her  
form divine, her downcast look *S. L.*

76-7

Contemplative, her cheek upon her palm

Supported ; the white arm and elbow rest *M. P., P. R.*

Contemplative ! Ah see ! her open palm

Presses *S. L.*

79-80

He, meanwhile,

Who from *M. P., P. R., S. L.*86 om. *M. P., P. R., S. L.* 87 The] She *M. P., P. R., S. L.*

The heads of tall flowers that behind her grow,  
Lychnis, and willow-herb, and fox-glove bells : 90  
And suddenly, as one that toys with time,  
Scatters them on the pool ! Then all the charm  
Is broken—all that phantom world so fair  
Vanishes, and a thousand circlets spread,  
And each mis-shape the other. Stay awhile,  
Poor youth, who scarcely dar'st lift up thine eyes ! 95  
The stream will soon renew its smoothness, soon  
The visions will return ! And lo ! he stays :  
And soon the fragments dim of lovely forms  
Come trembling back, unite, and now once more  
The pool becomes a mirror ; and behold 100  
Each wildflower on the marge inverted there,  
And there the half-uprooted tree--but where,  
O where the virgin's snowy arm, that leaned  
On its bare branch ? He turns, and she is gone !  
Homeward she steals through many a woodland maze 105  
Which he shall seek in vain. Ill-fated youth !  
Go, day by day, and waste thy manly prime  
In mad love-yearning by the vacant brook,  
Till sickly thoughts bewitch thine eyes, and thou  
Behold'st her shadow still abiding there, 110  
The Naiad of the mirror !

Not to thee,

O wild and desert stream ! belongs this tale :  
Gloomy and dark art thou—the crowded firs  
Spire from thy shores, and stretch across thy bed,  
Making thee doleful as a cavern-well : 115  
Save when the shy king-fishers build their nest  
On thy steep banks, no loves hast thou, wild stream !

This be my chosen haunt—emancipate  
From Passion's dreams, a freeman, and alone,  
I rise and trace its devious course. O lead, 120  
Lead me to deeper shades and lonelier glooms.  
Lo ! stealing through the canopy of firs,  
How fair the sunshine spots that mossy rock,  
Isle of the river, whose disparted waves

91-100 These lines are quoted in the prefatory note to *Kubla Khan*.  
 94 mis-shape] mis-shapes *M. P.* 108 love-yearning by] love-gazing  
 on *M. P.*, *P. R.* 114 Spire] Tow'r *M. P.*, *P. R.*, *S. L.* 118 my] thy  
*S. L.* (for thy read *my Errata*, *S. L.*, p. [xi]). 121 and] to *M. P.*, *P. R.*  
 124 waves] waters *P. R.*, *S. L.*

Dart off asunder with an angry sound,  
How soon to re-unite! And see! they meet,  
Each in the other lost and found: and see  
Placeless, as spirits, one soft water-sun  
Throbbing within them, heart at once and eye!  
With its soft neighbourhood of filmy clouds,  
The stains and shadings of forgotten tears,  
Dimness o'erswum with lustre! Such the hour  
Of deep enjoyment, following love's brief feuds;  
And hark, the noise of a near waterfall!  
I pass forth into light—I find myself  
Beneath a weeping birch (most beautiful  
Of forest trees, the Lady of the Woods),  
Hard by the brink of a tall weedy rock  
That overbrows the cataract. How bursts  
The landscape on my sight! Two crescent hills  
Fold in behind each other, and so make  
A circular vale, and land-locked, as might seem,  
With brook and bridge, and grey stone cottages,  
Half hid by rocks and fruit-trees. At my feet,  
The whortle-berries are bedewed with spray,  
Dashed upwards by the furious waterfall.  
How solemnly the pendent ivy-mass  
Swings in its winnow: All the air is calm.  
The smoke from cottage-chimneys, tinged with light,  
Rises in columns; from this house alone,  
Close by the water-fall, the column slants,  
And feels its ceaseless breeze. But what is this?  
That cottage, with its slanting chimney-smoke,  
And close beside its porch a sleeping child,  
His dear head pillow'd on a sleeping dog—  
One arm between its fore-legs, and the hand  
Holds loosely its small handful of wild-flowers,  
Unfilleted, and of unequal lengths.  
A curious picture, with a master's haste

126-32 *How soon to re-unite!* They meet, they join  
In deep embrace, and open to the sun  
Lie calm and smooth. Such the delicious hour *M. P., P. R., S. L.*

133 Of deep enjoyment, foll'wing Love's brief quarrels *M. P., P. R.* Lines  
126-33 are supplied in the *Errata, S. L. 1817* (p. xi). 134 *And]* But  
*Errata, S. L. (p. xi).* 135 I come out into light *M. P., P. R.:* I came out  
into light *S. L.* For *came* read *come* *Errata, S. L. (p. xi).* 144 *At]*  
Beneath *M. P., P. R., S. L.* (for *Beneath* read *At* *Errata, S. L.; p. [xi].*) 152  
this] *this M. P., P. R.: THIS S. L. 1828, 1829.*

Sketched on a strip of pinky-silver skin, 160  
 Peeled from the birchen bark ! Divinest maid !  
 Yon bark her canvas, and those purple berries  
 Her pencil ! See, the juice is scarcely dried  
 On the fine skin ! She has been newly here ;  
 And lo ! yon patch of heath has been her couch— 165  
 The pressure still remains ! O blessed couch !  
 For this mayst thou flower early, and the sun,  
 Slanting at eve, rest bright, and linger long  
 Upon thy purple bells ! O Isabel !  
 Daughter of genius ! stateliest of our maids ! 170  
 More beautiful than whom Alcaeus wooed,  
 The Lesbian woman of immortal song !  
 O child of genius ! stately, beautiful,  
 And full of love to all, save only me,  
 And not ungentle e'en to me ! My heart, 175  
 Why beats it thus ? Through yonder coppice-wood  
 Needs must the pathway turn, that leads straightway  
 On to her father's house. She is alone !  
 The night draws on—such ways are hard to hit—  
 And fit it is I should restore this sketch, 180  
 Dropt unawares, no doubt. Why should I yearn  
 To keep the relique ? 'twill but idly feed  
 The passion that consumes me. Let me haste !  
 The picture in my hand which she has left ;  
 She cannot blame me that I followed her : 185  
 And I may be her guide the long wood through.  
 1802.

TO MATILDA BETHAM FROM A STRANGER<sup>1</sup>

[‘ONE of our most celebrated poets, who had, I was told, picked out and praised the little piece ‘On a Cloud,’ another had quoted (saying it would have been faultless if I had not used the word *Phoebus* in it, which he thought inadmissible in modern poetry), sent me some verses inscribed “To Matilda Betham, from a Stranger”; and dated “Keswick, Sept. 9, 1802, S. T. C.” I should have guessed whence they came, but dared not flatter myself so highly as satisfactorily to believe it, before I obtained the avowal of the lady who had transmitted them. *Excerpt from ‘Autobiographical Sketch’.*] ]

MATILDA ! I have heard a sweet tune played  
 On a sweet instrument—thy Poesie—

<sup>1</sup> First printed in a ‘privately printed autobiographical sketch of

162 those] these P. R. 174 me] one M. P., P. R. 177 straightway]  
 away M. P., P. R. 184 The] This M. P., P. R.

Sent to my soul by Boughton's pleading voice,  
 Where friendship's zealous wish inspirited,  
 Deepened and filled the subtle tones of taste : 5  
 (So have I heard a Nightingale's fine notes  
 Blend with the murmur of a hidden stream !)  
 And now the fair, wild offspring of thy genius,  
 Those wanderers whom thy fancy had sent forth  
 To seek their fortune in this motley world, 10  
 Have found a little home within *my* heart,  
 And brought me, as the quit-rent of their lodging,  
 Rose-buds, and fruit-blossoms, and pretty weeds,  
 And timorous laurel leaflets half-disclosed,  
 Engarlanded with gadding woodbine tendrils ! 15  
 A coronal, which, with undoubting hand,  
 I twine around the brows of patriot HOPE !

The Almighty, having first composed a Man,  
 Set him to music, framing Woman for him,  
 And fitted each to each, and made them one ! 20  
 And 'tis my faith, that there's a natural bond  
 Between the female mind and measured sounds,  
 Nor do I know a sweeter Hope than this,  
 That this sweet Hope, by judgment unreproved,  
 That our own Britain, our dear mother Isle, 25  
 May boast one Maid, a poetess *indeed*,  
 Great as th' impassioned Lesbian, in sweet song,  
 And O ! of holier mind, and happier fate.

Matilda ! I dare twine *thy* vernal wreath  
 Around the brows of patriot Hope ! But thou 30  
 Be wise ! be bold ! fulfil my auspices !  
 Tho' sweet thy measures, stern must be thy thought,  
 Patient thy study, watchful thy mild eye !  
 Poetic feelings, like the stretching boughs  
 Of mighty oaks, pay homage to the gales, 35

Miss Matilda Betham', preserved in a volume of tracts arranged and bound up by Southey, now in the Forster Collection in the Victoria and Albert Museum: reprinted (by J. Dykes Campbell) in the *Athenaeum* (March 15, 1890): and, again, in *A House of Letters*, by Ernest Betham [1905], pp. 76-7. First collected in 1893 (see Editor's Note, p. 630). Lines 33-41 are quoted in a Letter to Sotheby, September 10, 1802. See *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 404.

<sup>7</sup> murmur] murmurs 1893.      <sup>16</sup> coronal] coronel *P. Sketch.*      34  
 stretching] flexuous *MS. Letter, Sept. 10, 1802.*      35 pay] yield *MS.*  
*Letter, 1802.*

Toss in the strong winds, drive before the gust,  
 Themselves one giddy storm of fluttering leaves ;  
 Yet, all the while self-limited, remain  
 Equally near the fixed and solid trunk  
 Of Truth and Nature in the howling storm,      40  
 As in the calm that stills the aspen grove.  
 Be bold, meek Woman ! but be wisely bold !  
 Fly, ostrich-like, firm land beneath thy feet,  
 Yet hurried onward by thy wings of fancy  
 Swift as the whirlwind, singing in their quills.      45  
 Look round thee ! look within thee ! think and feel !  
 What nobler meed, Matilda ! canst thou win,  
 Than tears of gladness in a BOUGHTON'S<sup>1</sup> eyes,  
 And exultation even in strangers' hearts ?

1802.

### HYMN BEFORE SUN-RISE, IN THE VALE OF CHAMOUNI<sup>2</sup>

BESIDES the Rivers, Arve and Arveiron, which have their sources in the foot of Mont Blanc, five conspicuous torrents rush down its sides; and within a few paces of the Glaciers, the Gentiana Major grows in immense numbers, with its 'flowers of loveliest [liveliest *Friend*, 1809] blue.'

HAST thou a charm to stay the morning-star  
 In his steep course ? So long he seems to pause  
 On thy bald awful head, O sovran BLANC,

<sup>1</sup> Catherine Rose, wife of Sir Charles Willam Rouse-Boughton, Bart. Sir Charles and Lady Boughton visited Greta Hall in September, 1802.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, Sept. 11, 1802 : reprinted in the *Poetical Register* for 1802 (1803), ii. 308, 311, and in *The Friend*, No. XI, Oct. 26, 1809 : included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, and 1834. Three MSS. are extant : (1) MS. A, sent to Sir George Beaumont, Oct. 1803 (see *Coleorton Letters*, 1886, i. 26); (2) MS. B, the MS. of the version as printed in *The Friend*, Oct. 26, 1809 (now in the Forster Collection in the Victoria and Albert Museum); (3) MS. C, presented to Mrs. Brabant in 1815 (now in the British Museum). The *Hymn before Sunrise*, &c., 'Hymn in the manner of the Psalms,' is an expansion, in part, of a translation of Friederika Brun's 'Ode to Chamouny', addressed to Klopstock, which

39 solid] parent MS. Letter, 1802.

40 Of truth in Nature—in the

howling blast MS. Letter, 1802.

*Hymn before*, &c.—Title] Chamouny The Hour before Sunrise A Hymn M. P., P. R.: Mount Blanc, The Summit of the Vale of Chamouny, An Hour before Sunrise : A Hymn MS. A.

3 On thy bald awful head O Chamouny M. P., P. R.: On thy bald awful top O Chamouny MS. A: On thy bald awful top O Sovran Blanc *Friend*, 1809.

The Arve and Arveiron at thy base  
 Rave ceaselessly; but thou, most awful Form !      5  
 Risest from forth thy silent sea of pines,  
 How silently! Around thee and above  
 Deep is the air and dark, substantial, black,  
 An ebon mass: methinks thou piercest it,  
 As with a wedge! But when I look again,      10  
 It is thine own calm home, thy crystal shrine,  
 Thy habitation from eternity!  
 O dread and silent Mount! I gazed upon thee,  
 Till thou, still present to the bodily sense,  
 Didst vanish from my thought: entranced in prayer      15  
 I worshipped the Invisible alone.

Yet, like some sweet beguiling melody,

numbers some twenty lines. The German original (see the Appendices of this edition) was first appended to Coleridge's *Poetical Works* in 1844 (p. 372). A translation was given in a footnote, *P. W.* (ed. by T. Ashe), 1885, ii. 86, 87. In the *Morning Post* and *Poetical Register* the following explanatory note preceded the poem:—

'CHAMOUNI, THE HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE.

'[Chamouni is one of the highest mountain valleys of the Barony of Faucigny in the Savoy Alps; and exhibits a kind of fairy world, in which the wildest appearances (I had almost said horrors) of Nature alternate with the softest and most beautiful. The chain of Mont Blanc is its boundary; and besides the Arve it is filled with sounds from the Arveiron, which rushes from the melted glaciers, like a giant, mad with joy, from a dungeon, and forms other torrents of snow-water, having their rise in the glaciers which slope down into the valley. The beautiful *Gentiana major*, or greater gentian, with blossoms of the brightest blue, grows in large companies a few steps from the never-melted ice of the glaciers. I thought it an affecting emblem of the boldness of human hope, venturing near, and, as it were, leaning over the brink of the grave. Indeed, the whole vale, its every light, its every sound, must needs impress every mind not utterly callous with the thought—Who would be, who could be an Atheist in this valley of wonders! If any of the readers of the MORNING POST [Those who have *P. R.*] have visited this vale in their journeys among the Alps, I am confident that they [that they *om. P. R.*] will not find the sentiments and feelings expressed, or attempted to be expressed, in the following poem, extravagant.]'

4 Arve] Arvè *M. P., P. R., MS. (O).*    5 dread mountain form *M. P., P. R., MS. A.*    most] dread *Friend, 1809.*    6 forth] out *MS. A.*    8 Deep is the sky, and black : transpicuous, deep *M. P., P. R.* : Deep is the sky, and black ! transpicuous, black. *MS. A.*    11 is thine] seems thy *M. P., P. R.*    13 Mount] form *M. P., P. R., MS. A.*    14 the bodily sense] my bodily eye *M. P., P. R.* : my bodily sense *MS. A.*    16 Invisible] INVISIBLE *M. P., P. R., Friend, 1809, MS. A.*

So sweet, we know not we are listening to it,  
 Thou, the meanwhile, wast blending with my Thought,  
 Yea, with my Life and Life's own secret joy:      20  
 Till the dilating Soul, enrapt, transfused,  
 Into the mighty vision passing—there  
 As in her natural form, swelled vast to Heaven!

Awake, my soul! not only passive praise  
 Thou owest! not alone these swelling tears,      25  
 Mute thanks and secret ecstasy! Awake,  
 Voice of sweet song! Awake, my heart, awake!  
 Green vales and icy cliffs, all join my Hymn.

Thou first and chief, sole sovereign of the Vale!  
 O struggling with the darkness all the night,<sup>1</sup>      30  
 And visited all night by troops of stars,  
 Or when they climb the sky or when they sink:  
 Companion of the morning-star at dawn,  
 Thyself Earth's rosy star, and of the dawn  
 Co-herald: wake, O wake, and utter praise!  
 Who sank thy sunless pillars deep in Earth?      35  
 Who filled thy countenance with rosy light?  
 Who made thee parent of perpetual streams?

And you, ye five wild torrents fiercely glad!  
 Who called you forth from night and utter death,      40  
 From dark and icy caverns called you forth,

<sup>1</sup> I had written a much finer line when Sca' Fell was in my thoughts, viz. :—

O blacker than the darkness all the night  
 And visited *Note to MS. A.*

17 Yet thou meantime, wast working on my soul,  
 E'en like some deep enchanting melody *M. P., P. R., MS. A.*

19 foll. But [Now *MS. A.*] I awake, and with a busier mind,  
 And active will self-conscious, offer now  
 Not as before, involuntary pray'r  
 And passive adoration!

Hand and voice,  
 Awake, awake! and thou, my heart, awake!  
 Awake ye rocks! Ye forest pines awake! (*Not in MS. A.*)  
 Green fields *M. P., P. R., MS. A.*

29-30 And thou, O silent Mountain, sole and bare  
 O blacker than the darkness all the night *M. P., P. R.*

29 And thou, thou silent mountain, lone and bare *MS. A.* The first  
 and chief, stern Monarch of the Vale *Errata to 'Hymn', &c., The Friend,*  
*No. XIII, Nov. 16, 1809.*      38 parent] father *M. P., P. R., MS. A.*

41 From darkness let you loose and icy dens *M. P., P. R., MS. A.*

Down those precipitous, black, jaggéd rocks,  
For ever shattered and the same for ever?  
Who gave you your invulnerable life,  
Your strength, your speed, your fury, and your joy, 45  
Unceasing thunder and eternal foam?  
And who commanded (and the silence came),  
Here let the billows stiffen, and have rest?

Ye Ice-falls! ye that from the mountain's brow  
Adown enormous ravines slope amain— 50  
Torrents, methinks, that heard a mighty voice,  
And stopped at once amid their maddest plunge!  
Motionless torrents! silent cataracts!  
Who made you glorious as the Gates of Heaven  
Beneath the keen full moon? Who bade the sun 55  
Clothe you with rainbows? Who, with living flowers<sup>1</sup>  
Of loveliest blue, spread garlands at your feet?—  
God! let the torrents, like a shout of nations,  
Answer! and let the ice-plains echo, God!  
God! sing ye meadow-streams with gladsome voice! 60  
Ye pine-groves, with your soft and soul-like sounds!  
And they too have a voice, yon piles of snow,  
And in their perilous fall shall thunder, God!

Ye living flowers that skirt the eternal frost!  
Ye wild goats sporting round the eagle's nest! 65

<sup>1</sup> The *Gentiana major* grows in large companies a stride's distance from the foot of several of the glaciers. Its blue flower, the colour of Hope: is it not a pretty emblem of Hope creeping onward even to the edge of the grave, to the very verge of utter desolation? *Note to MS. A.*

46 Eternal thunder and unceasing foam *MS. A.* 48 'Here shall the billows...' *M. P., P. R.*: Here shall your billows *MS. A.* 49 the mountain's brow] yon dizzy heights *M. P., P. R.* 50 Adown enormous ravines steeply slope *M. P., P. R., MS. A.* [A bad line; but I hope to be able to alter it *Note to MS. A.*].

56 with lovely flowers  
Between 58-64 Of living blue *M. P., P. R., MS. A.*

God! God! the torrents like a shout of nations  
Utter! the ice-plain bursts and answers God!  
God, sing the meadow-streams with gladsome voice,  
And pine-groves with their soft and soul-like sound,  
The silent snow-mass, loos'ning thunders God! *M. P., P. R.*

*These lines were omitted in MS. A.*

64 Ye dreadless flow'rs that fringe *M. P., P. R.* living] azure *MS. A.*, livery *S. L.* (corrected in *Errata*, p. [xi]). 65 sporting round] bounding by *M. P., P. R., MS. A.*

Ye eagles, play-mates of the mountain-storm !  
Ye lightnings, the dread arrows of the clouds !  
Ye signs and wonders of the element !  
Utter forth God, and fill the hills with praise !

Thou too, hoar Mount! with thy sky-pointing peaks,  
Oft from whose feet the avalanche,<sup>1</sup> unheard, 71  
Shoots downward, glittering through the pure serene  
Into the depth of clouds, that veil thy breast—  
Thou too again, stupendous Mountain! thou  
That as I raise my head, awhile bowed low 75  
In adoration, upward from thy base  
Slow travelling with dim eyes suffused with tears,  
Solemnly seemest, like a vapoury cloud,  
To rise before me—Rise, O ever rise,  
Rise like a cloud of incense from the Earth ! 80  
Thou kingly Spirit throned among the hills,  
Thou dread ambassador from Earth to Heaven,  
Great Hierarch! tell thou the silent sky,  
And tell the stars, and tell yon rising sun  
Earth, with her thousand voices, praises God. 85

1802.

<sup>1</sup> The fall of vast masses of snow, so called. *Note MS. (C).*

66 mountain-storm] mountain blast *M. P., P. R.*  
*M. P., P. R.*

69 God] God.

Between 70-80

And thou, O silent Form, alone and bare  
Whom, as I lift again my head bow'd low  
In adoration, I again behold,  
And to thy summit upward from thy base  
Sweep slowly with dim eyes suffus'd by tears,  
Awake thou mountain form ! rise, like a cloud *M. P., P. R.*  
And thou thou silent mountain, lone and bare  
Whom as I lift again my head bow'd low  
In adoration, I again behold !  
And from thy summit upward to the base  
Sweep slowly, with dim eyes suffus'd with tears  
Rise, mighty form ! even as thou *seem'st* to rise. *MS. A.*

70 Thou too] And thou, *Errata, Friend*, No. XIII. Once more, hoar  
Mount MS. (C), S. L. (For once more, read *Thou too Errata, S. L.*, p. [xi]).  
72 through] in *Friend*, 1809. In the blue serene MS. (C). 74 again]  
once more MS. (C). 75 That as once more I raise my Head bow'd low  
*Friend*, No. XI, 1809 (see the *Errata*, No. XIII).

83-4

tell thou the silent stars,  
Tell the blue sky *MS. A.*

<sup>84</sup> yon] the *M. P.*, *P. R.*, *MS. A.*      <sup>85</sup> praises] calls on *M. P.*, *P. R.*,  
*MS. A.*

THE GOOD, GREAT MAN<sup>1</sup>

'How seldom, friend ! a good great man inherits  
 Honour or wealth with all his worth and pains !  
 It sounds like stories from the land of spirits  
 If any man obtain that which he merits  
 Or any merit that which he obtains.'

5

## REPLY TO THE ABOVE

FOR shame, dear friend, renounce this canting strain !  
 What would'st thou have a good great man obtain ?  
 Place ? titles ? salary ? a gilded chain ?  
 Or throne of corses which his sword had slain ?  
 Greatness and goodness are not *means*, but *ends* !  
 Hath he not always treasures, always friends,  
 The good great man ? *three* treasures, LOVE, and LIGHT,  
 And CALM THOUGHTS, regular as infant's breath :  
 And three firm friends, more sure than day and night,  
 HIMSELF, his MAKER, and the ANGEL DEATH !

1802.

INSCRIPTION FOR A FOUNTAIN ON A HEATH<sup>2</sup>

THIS Sycamore, oft musical with bees,—  
 Such tents the Patriarchs loved ! O long unharmed  
 May all its agéd boughs o'er-canopy  
 The small round basin, which this jutting stone  
 Keeps pure from falling leaves ! Long may the Spring,

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post* (as an 'Epigram', signed ΕΣΤΗΣΕ), September 23, 1802: reprinted in the *Poetical Register* for 1802 (1803, p. 246): included in *The Friend*, No. XIX, December 28, 1809, and in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 53. First collected in 1844.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, September 24, 1802: reprinted in the *Poetical Register* for 1802 (1803, p. 338): included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1828, 1829, and 1834.

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*The Good, Great Man*—Title] Epigram M. P.: Epigrams P. R.: Complaint Lit. Rem., 1844, 1852: The Good, &c. 1893.      6 Reply to the above M. P.: Reply *The Friend*, 1809: Reproof Lit. Rem., 1844.

*Inscription, &c.*—Title] Inscription on a Jutting Stone, over a Spring M. P., P. R.

3 agéd] darksome M. P., P. R.

5 Still may this spring M. P., P. R.

Quietly as a sleeping infant's breath,  
 Send up cold waters to the traveller  
 With soft and even pulse! Nor ever cease  
 Yon tiny cone of sand its soundless dance,<sup>1</sup>  
 Which at the bottom, like a Fairy's Page,<sup>10</sup>  
 As merry and no taller, dances still,  
 Nor wrinkles the smooth surface of the Fount.  
 Here Twilight is and Coolness: here is moss;  
 A soft seat, and a deep and ample shade.  
 Thou may'st toil far and find no second tree.<sup>15</sup>  
 Drink, Pilgrim, here; Here rest! and if thy heart  
 Be innocent, here too shalt thou refresh  
 Thy spirit, listening to some gentle sound,  
 Or passing gale or hum of murmuring bees!

1802.

AN ODE TO THE RAIN<sup>2</sup>

COMPOSED BEFORE DAYLIGHT, ON THE MORNING APPOINTED FOR  
 THE DEPARTURE OF A VERY WORTHY, BUT NOT VERY  
 PLEASANT VISITOR, WHOM IT WAS FEARED THE RAIN MIGHT  
 DETAIN

I

I KNOW it is dark; and though I have lain,  
 Awake, as I guess, an hour or twain,

<sup>1</sup> Compare *Anima Poetæ*, 1895, p. 17: ‘The spring with the little tiny cone of loose sand ever rising and sinking to the bottom, but its surface without a wrinkle.’

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Post* (?), Oct. 7, 1802: included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817: in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 54–6. First collected in 1844. In *Literary Remains* the poem is dated 1809, but in a letter to J. Wedgwood, Oct. 20, 1802, Coleridge seems to imply that the *Ode to the Rain* had appeared recently in the *Morning Post*. A MS. note of Mrs. H. N. Coleridge, included in other memoranda intended for publication in *Essays on His Own Times*, gives the date, ‘Ode to Rain, October 7’. The issue for October 7 is missing in the volume for 1802 preserved

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7 waters] water *P. R.*      to] for *M. P., P. R.*      9 soundless] noiseless *M. P., P. R.*      10 Which] That *M. P., P. R.*      13 Here coolness dwell, and twilight *M. P., P. R.*

16 foll. Here, stranger, drink! Here rest! And if thy heart  
 Be innocent, here too may'st thou renew  
 Thy spirits, listening to these gentle sounds,  
 The passing gale, or ever-murm'ring bees. *M. P., P. R.*

I have not once opened the lids of my eyes,  
But I lie in the dark, as a blind man lies.

O Rain ! that I lie listening to,  
You're but a doleful sound at best :

I owe you little thanks, 'tis true,  
For breaking thus my needful rest !

Yet if, as soon as it is light,

O Rain ! you will but take your flight,  
I'll neither rail, nor malice keep,

Though sick and sore for want of sleep.

But only now, for this one day,

Do go, dear Rain ! do go away !

5

10

15

O Rain ! with your dull two-fold sound,  
The clash hard by, and the murmur all round !

You know, if you know aught, that we,  
Both night and day, but ill agree :

For days and months, and almost years,  
Have limped on through this vale of tears,

Since body of mine, and rainy weather,  
Have lived on easy terms together.

Yet if, as soon as it is light,

O Rain ! you will but take your flight,

Though you should come again to-morrow,

20

And bring with you both pain and sorrow ;

Though stomach should sicken and knees should swell—  
I'll nothing speak of you but well.

But only now for this one day,

Do go, dear Rain ! do go away !

25

30

35

## III

Dear Rain ! I ne'er refused to say

You're a good creature in your way ;

Nay, I could write a book myself,

Would fit a parson's lower shelf,

Showing how very good you are.—

35

in the British Museum, and it may be presumed that it was in that number the *Ode to the Rain* first appeared. It is possible that the 'Ode' was written on the morning after the unexpected arrival of Charles and Mary Lamb at Greta Hall in August, 1802.

What then? sometimes it must be fair  
 And if sometimes, why not to-day?  
 Do go, dear Rain! do go away!

## IV

Dear Rain! if I've been cold and shy,  
 Take no offence! I'll tell you why. 40  
 A dear old Friend e'en now is here,  
 And with him came my sister dear;  
 After long absence now first met,  
 Long months by pain and grief beset—  
 We three dear friends! in truth, we groan 45  
 Impatiently to be alone.  
 We three, you mark! and not one more!  
 The strong wish makes my spirit sore.  
 We have so much to talk about,  
 So many sad things to let out; 50  
 So many tears in our eye-corners,  
 Sitting like little Jacky Horners—  
 In short, as soon as it is day,  
 Do go, dear Rain! do go away.

## V

And this I'll swear to you, dear Rain! 55  
 Whenever you shall come again,  
 Be you as dull as e'er you could  
 (And by the bye 'tis understood,  
 You're not so pleasant as you're good),  
 Yet, knowing well your worth and place, 60  
 I'll welcome you with cheerful face;  
 And though you stayed a week or more,  
 Were ten times duller than before;  
 Yet with kind heart, and right good will,  
 I'll sit and listen to you still; 65  
 Nor should you go away, dear Rain!  
 Uninvited to remain.  
 But only now, for this one day,  
 Do go, dear Rain! do go away.

1802.

<sup>45</sup> We] With *L. R. 1844, 1852.* [The text was amended in *P. W.*, 1877-80.]

A DAY-DREAM<sup>1</sup>

My eyes make pictures, when they are shut :

I see a fountain, large and fair,

A willow and a ruined hut,

And thee, and me and Mary there.

O Mary ! make thy gentle lap our pillow !

5

Bend o'er us, like a bower, my beautiful green willow !

A wild-rose roofs the ruined shed,

And that and summer well agree :

And lo ! where Mary leans her head,

Two dear names carved upon the tree !

10

And Mary's tears, they are not tears of sorrow :

Our sister and our friend will both be here to-morrow.

'Twas day ! but now few, large, and bright,

The stars are round the crescent moon !

And now it is a dark warm night,

15

The balmiest of the month of June !

A glow-worm fall'n, and on the marge remounting

Shines, and its shadow shines, fit stars for our sweet fountain.

O ever—ever be thou blest !

For dearly, Asra ! love I thee !

20

This brooding warmth across my breast,

This depth of tranquil bliss—ah, me !

Fount, tree and shed are gone, I know not whither,

But in one quiet room we three are still together.

The shadows dance upon the wall,

25

By the still dancing fire-flames made ;

And now they slumber, moveless all !

And now they melt to one deep shade !

But not from me shall this mild darkness steal thee :

I dream thee with mine eyes, and at my heart I feel thee !

30

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Bijou* for 1828 : included in 1828, 1829, and 1834. Asra is Miss Sarah Hutchinson; 'Our Sister and our Friend,' William and Dorothy Wordsworth. There can be little doubt that these lines were written in 1801 or 1802.

8 well] will *Bijou*, 1828. 17 on] in *Bijou*, 1828. 20 For Asra, dearly *Bijou*, 1828. 28 one] me *Bijou*, 1828.

Thine eyelash on my cheek doth play—

‘Tis Mary’s hand upon my brow!

But let me check this tender lay

Which none may hear but she and thou!

Like the still hive at quiet midnight humming,

Murmur it to yourselves, ye two beloved women!

35

1802.

### ANSWER TO A CHILD’S QUESTION<sup>1</sup>

Do you ask what the birds say? The Sparrow, the Dove,  
The Linnet and Thrush say, ‘I love and I love!’

In the winter they’re silent—the wind is so strong;

What it says, I don’t know, but it sings a loud song.

But green leaves, and blossoms, and sunny warm weather, 5  
And singing, and loving—all come back together.

But the Lark is so brimful of gladness and love,

The green fields below him, the blue sky above,

That he sings, and he sings; and for ever sings he—

‘I love my Love, and my Love loves me!’

10

1802.

### THE DAY-DREAM<sup>2</sup>

FROM AN EMIGRANT TO HIS ABSENT WIFE

IF thou wert here, these tears were tears of light!

But from as sweet a vision did I start

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, October 16, 1802: included in *Silvoline Leaves*, in 1828, 1829, and 1834.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Morning Post*, October 19, 1802. First collected in *Poems*, 1852. A note (p. 384), was affixed:—‘This little poem first appeared

*Answer to a Child’s Question—Title]* The Language of Birds: Lines spoken extempore, to a little child, in early spring M. P.

*Between 6-7* ‘I love, and I love,’ almost all the birds say  
From sunrise to star-rise, so gladsome are they. M. P.

*After 10* ‘Tis no wonder that he’s full of joy to the brim,  
When He loves his Love, and his Love loves him. M. P.

Line 10 is adapted from the refrain of Prior’s *Song* (‘One morning very early, one morning in the spring’):—‘I love my love, because I know my love loves me.’

As ever made these eyes grow idly bright !

And though I weep, yet still around my heart  
A sweet and playful tenderness doth linger,  
Touching my heart as with an infant's finger.

5

My mouth half open, like a witless man,

I saw our couch, I saw our quiet room,

Its shadows heaving by the fire-light gloom ;  
And o'er my lips a subtle feeling ran,  
All o'er my lips a soft and breeze-like feeling—  
I know not what—but had the same been stealing

10

Upon a sleeping mother's lips, I guess

It would have made the loving mother dream  
That she was softly bending down to kiss.

15

Her babe, that something more than babe did seem,  
A floating presence of its darling father,  
And yet its own dear baby self far rather !

Across my chest there lay a weight, so warm !

As if some bird had taken shelter there,  
And lo ! I seemed to see a woman's form—

20

Thine, Sara, thine ? O joy, if thine it were !  
I gazed with stifled breath, and feared to stir it,  
No deeper trance e'er wrapt a yearning spirit !

And now, when I seemed sure thy face to see,

25

Thy own dear self in our own quiet home ;

There came an elfish laugh, and wakened me :

'Twas Frederic, who behind my chair had clomb,  
And with his bright eyes at my face was peeping.  
I blessed him, tried to laugh, and fell a-weeping !

30

1801-2.

in the *Morning Post* in 1802, but was doubtless composed in Germany. It seems to have been forgotten by its author, for this was the only occasion on which it saw the light through him. The Editors think that it will plead against parental neglect in the mind of most readers.' Internal evidence seems to point to 1801 or 1802 as the most probable date of composition.

*Below line 30 ΕΣΤΗΣΕ.*

THE HAPPY HUSBAND<sup>1</sup>

## A FRAGMENT

OFT, oft methinks, the while with thee,  
 I breathe, as from the heart, thy dear  
 And dedicated name, I hear  
 A promise and a mystery,  
 A pledge of more than passing life,  
 Yea, in that very name of Wife !

A pulse of love, that ne'er can sleep !  
 A feeling that upbraids the heart  
 With happiness beyond desert,  
 That gladness half requests to weep !  
 Nor bless I not the keener sense  
 And unalarming turbulence

Of transient joys, that ask no sting  
 From jealous fears, or coy denying ;  
 But born beneath Love's brooding wing,  
 And into tenderness soon dying,  
 Wheel out their giddy moment, then  
 Resign the soul to love again ;—

A more precipitated vein  
 Of notes, that eddy in the flow  
 Of smoothest song, they come, they go,  
 And leave their sweeter understrain,  
 Its own sweet self—a love of Thee  
 That seems, yet cannot greater be !

? 1802.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817 : included in 1828, 1829, 1834. There is no evidence as to the date of composition.

13 ask] fear *S. L.* (for *fear* no sting read *ask* no sting *Errata*, p. [xi]).

THE PAINS OF SLEEP<sup>1</sup>

ERE on my bed my limbs I lay,  
 It hath not been my use to pray  
 With moving lips or bended knees ;  
 But silently, by slow degrees,  
 My spirit I to Love compose, 5  
 In humble trust mine eye-lids close,  
 With reverential resignation,  
 No wish conceived, no thought exprest,  
 Only a sense of supplication ;  
 A sense o'er all my soul imprest 10  
 That I am weak, yet not unblest,  
 Since in me, round me, every where  
 Eternal Strength and Wisdom are.

But yester-night I prayed aloud  
 In anguish and in agony, 15  
 Up-starting from the fiendish crowd  
 Of shapes and thoughts that tortured me :  
 A lurid light, a trampling throng,  
 Sense of intolerable wrong,  
 And whom I scorned, those only strong ! 20

<sup>1</sup> First published, together with *Christabel*, in 1816: included in 1828, 1829, i. 334-6 (but not in *Contents*), and 1834. A first draft of these lines was sent in a Letter to Southey, Sept. 11, 1803 (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 435-7). An amended version of lines 18-32 was included in an unpublished Letter to Poole, dated Oct. 3, 1803.

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i Ere] When MS. *Letter to Southey*, Sept. 11, 1803. 9 sense] sense MS. *Letter to Southey*, 1816, 1828, 1829. 10 sense] sense MS. *Letter to Southey*. 12 Since round me, in me, everywhere MS. *Letter to Southey*. 13 Wisdom] Goodness MS. *Letter to Southey*. 16 Up-starting] Awaking MS. *Letter to Southey*.

Between 18-26 Desire with loathing strangely mixt,  
 On wild or hateful objects fixt.  
 Sense of revenge, the powerless will,  
 Still baffled and consuming still ;  
 Sense of intolerable wrong,  
 And men whom I despis'd made strong !  
 Vain-glorious threats, unmanly vaunting,  
 Bad men my boasts and fury taunting :  
 Rage, sensual passion, mad'ning Brawl,

MS. *Letter to Southey*.

18 trampling] ghastly MS. *Letter to Poole*, Oct. 3, 1803. 19 intolerable]  
 insufferable MS. *Letter to Poole*. 20 those] they MS. *Letter to Poole*.

Thirst of revenge, the powerless will  
 Still baffled, and yet burning still !  
 Desire with loathing strangely mixed  
 On wild or hateful objects fixed.

Fantastic passions ! maddening brawl !      25  
 And shame and terror over all !  
 Deeds to be hid which were not hid,  
 Which all confused I could not know  
 Whether I suffered, or I did :  
 For all seemed guilt, remorse or woe,      30  
 My own or others still the same  
 Life-stifling fear, soul-stifling shame.

So two nights passed : the night's dismay  
 Saddened and stunned the coming day.  
 Sleep, the wide blessing, seemed to me      35  
 Distemper's worst calamity.

The third night, when my own loud scream  
 Had waked me from the fiendish dream,  
 O'ercome with sufferings strange and wild,  
 I wept as I had been a child ;      40  
 And having thus by tears subdued  
 My anguish to a milder mood,  
 Such punishments, I said, were due  
 To natures deepest stained with sin,—  
 For aye entempesting anew      45  
 The unfathomable hell within,  
 The horror of their deeds to view,  
 To know and loathe, yet wish and do !

*Between 22-4*

Tempestuous pride, vain-glorious vaunting

Base men my vices justly taunting *MS. Letter to Poole.*

27 which] that *MS. Letters to Southey and Poole.*      28 could] might  
*MS. Letters to Southey and Poole.*      30 For all was Horror, Guilt, and Woe  
*MS. Letter to Southey :* For all was Guilt, and Shame, and Woe *MS. Letter to Poole.*      33 So] Thus *MS. Letter to Southey.*      34 coming] boding *MS. Letter to Southey.*

35-6 I fear'd to sleep : sleep seem'd to be  
 Disease's worst malignity *MS. Letter to Southey.*

38 waked] freed *MS. Letter to Southey.*      39 O'ercome by sufferings  
 dark and wild *MS. Letter to Southey.*      42 anguish] Trouble *MS. Letter to Southey.*  
 43 said] thought *MS. Letter to Southey.*

45-6 Still to be stirring up anew  
 The self-created Hell within *MS. Letter to Southey.*

47 their deeds] the crimes *MS. Letter to Southey.*      48 and] to *MS. Letter to Southey.*

Such griefs with such men well agree,  
But wherefore, wherefore fall on me?  
To be beloved is all I need,  
And whom I love, I love indeed.

1803.

THE EXCHANGE<sup>1</sup>

WE pledged our hearts, my love and I,—  
I in my arms the maiden clasping;  
I could not guess the reason why,  
But, oh! I trembled like an aspen.

Her father's love she bade me gain;  
I went, but shook like any reed!  
I strove to act the man—in vain!  
We had exchanged our hearts indeed.

1804.

AD VILMUM AXIOLOGUM<sup>2</sup>

[TO WILLIAM WORDSWORTH]

THIS be the meed, that thy song creates a thousand-fold echo!  
Sweet as the warble of woods, that awakes at the gale of the  
morning!

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Courier*, April 16, 1804: included in the *Poetical Register* for 1804 (1805); reprinted in *Literary Souvenir* for 1826, p. 408, and in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 59. First collected in 1844.

<sup>2</sup> First published in *P. W.*, 1893. These lines were found in one of Coleridge's Notebooks (No. 24). The first draft immediately follows the

*Between 48–51*

With such let fiends make mockery—  
But I—Oh, wherefore this *on me*?  
Frail is my soul, yea, strengthless wholly,  
Unequal, restless, melancholy.  
But free from Hate and sensual Folly. *MS. Letter to Southey.*

51 be] live *MS. Letter to Southey.* After 52 And etc., etc., etc., etc. *MS. Letter to Southey.*

*The Exchange—Title] The Exchange of Hearts Courier, 1804.* <sup>2</sup> Me in her arms *Courier, 1804.* <sup>3</sup> guess] tell *Lit. Souvenir, Lit. Rem., 1844.*

5 Her father's leave *Courier, 1804, P. R. 1804, 1893.* <sup>6</sup> but] and *Lit. Souvenir, Lit. Rem., 1844.*

*Ad Vilmum, &c.—1 foll.*  
What is the meed of thy song? 'Tis the ceaseless the thousandfold echo,  
Which from the welecoming Hearts of the Pure repeats and prolongs it—  
Each with a different Tone, compleat or in musical fragments.

Or

This be the meed, that thy Song awakes to a thousandfold echo  
Welcoming Hearts; is it their voice or is it thy own?

List ! the Hearts of the Pure, like caves in the ancient mountains

Deep, deep *in* the Bosom, and *from* the Bosom resound it,  
Each with a different tone, complete or in musical fragments—  
All have welcomed thy Voice, and receive and retain and  
prolong it !

This is the word of the Lord ! it is spoken, and Beings Eternal  
Live and are borne as an Infant ; the Eternal begets the  
Immortal :

Love is the Spirit of Life, and Music the Life of the Spirit !

? 1805.

### AN EXILE<sup>1</sup>

FRIEND, Lover, Husband, Sister, Brother !  
Dear names close in upon each other !  
Alas ! poor Fancy's bitter-sweet—  
Our names, and but our names can meet.

1805.

### SONNET<sup>2</sup>

[TRANSLATED FROM MARINI]

LADY, to Death we're doom'd, our crime the same !  
Thou, that in me thou kindled'st such fierce heat ;  
I, that my heart did of a Sun so sweet  
The rays concentre to so hot a flame.

transcription of a series of Dante's *Canzoni* begun at Malta in 1805. If the Hexameters were composed at the same time, it is possible that they were inspired by a perusal or re-perusal of a MS. copy of Wordsworth's unpublished poems which had been made for his use whilst he was abroad. As Mr. Campbell points out (*P. W.*, p. 614), Wordsworth himself was responsible for the Latinization of his name. A Sonnet on seeing Miss Helen Maria Williams weeping at a tale of distress, which was published in the *European Magazine* for March, 1787, is signed 'Axiologus'.

<sup>1</sup> First published, with title 'An Exile', in 1893. These lines, without title or heading, are inserted in one of Coleridge's Malta Notebooks.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1893. For the Italian original, 'Alla Sua Amico,' *Sonetto*, vide Appendices of this Edition.

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Lost ! the Hearts of the Pure, like caves in the ancient mountains  
Deep, deep in the bosom, and *from* the bosom resound it,  
Each with a different tone, compleat or in musical fragments.  
Meet the song they receive, and retain and resound and prolong it !  
Welcoming Souls ! is it their voice, sweet Poet, or is it thy own voice ?

*Drafts in Notebook.*

I, fascinated by an Adder's eye—  
 Deaf as an Adder thou to all my pain;  
 Thou obstinate in Scorn, in Passion I—  
 I lov'd too much, too much didst thou disdain.  
 Hear then our doom in Hell as just as stern,  
 Our sentence equal as our crimes conspire—  
 Who living bask'd at Beauty's earthly fire,  
 In living flames eternal these must burn—  
 Hell for us both fit places too supplies—  
 In my heart *thou* wilt burn, I *roast* before thine eyes.

? 1805.

5

10

ALL look and likeness caught from earth,  
 All accident of kin and birth,  
 Had pass'd away. There was no trace  
 Of aught on that illumined face,  
 Uprais'd beneath the rifted stone  
 But of one spirit all her own;—  
 She, she herself, and only she,  
 Shone through her body visibly.

5

1805.

### PHANTOM<sup>1</sup>

UPON the mountain's edge with light touch resting,  
 There a brief while the globe of splendour sits

<sup>1</sup> These lines, without title or heading, are quoted ('vide... my lines') in an entry in one of Coleridge's Malta Notebooks, dated Feb. 8, 1805, to illustrate the idea that the love-sense can be abstracted from the accidents of form or person (see *Anima Poetae*, 1895, p. 126). It follows that they were written before that date. *Phantom* was first published in 1834, immediately following (ii. 71) *Phantom or Fact. A dialogue in Verse*, which was first published in 1828, and was probably written about that time. Both poems are 'fragments from the life of dreams'; but it was the reality which lay behind both 'phantom' and 'fact' of which the poet dreamt, having his eyes open. With lines 4, 5 compare the following stanza of one of the MS. versions of the *Dark Ladie*:-

Against a grey stone rudely carv'd  
 The statue of an armed knight,  
 She lean'd in melancholy mood  
 To watch [d] the lingering Light.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1893. The title 'A Sunset' was prefixed by the Editor. These lines are inscribed in one of Coleridge's Malta Note-

And seems a creature of the earth ; but soon  
 More changeful than the Moon,  
 To wane fantastic his great orb submits,  
 Or cone or mow of fire : till sinking slowly  
 Even to a star at length he lessens wholly.

Abrupt, as Spirits vanish, he is sunk !  
 A soul-like breeze possesses all the wood.

The boughs, the sprays have stood  
 As motionless as stands the ancient trunk !  
 But every leaf through all the forest flutters,  
 And deep the cavern of the fountain mutters.

1805.

5

10

WHAT IS LIFE ?<sup>1</sup>

RESEMBLES life what once was deem'd of light,  
 Too ample in itself for human sight ?  
 An absolute self—an element ungrounded—  
 All that we see, all colours of all shade  
 By encroach of darkness made ?—  
 Is very life by consciousness unbounded ?  
 And all the thoughts, pains, joys of mortal breath,  
 A war-embrace of wrestling life and death ?

1805.

5

books. The following note or comment is attached :—‘These lines I wrote as nonsense verses merely to try a metre ; but they are by no means contemptible ; at least in reading them I am surprised at finding them so good. 16 Aug., 1805, Malta.

‘Now will it be a more English music if the first and fourth are double rhymes and the 5th and 6th single ? or all single, or the 2nd and 3rd double ? Try.’ They were afterwards sent to William Worship, Esq., Yarmouth, in a letter dated April 22, 1819, as an unpublished autograph.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Literary Souvenir*, 1829 : included in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 60. First collected in 1844. These lines, ‘written in the same manner, and for the same purpose, but of course with more conscious effort than the two stanzas on the preceding leaf,’ are dated ‘16 August, 1805, the day of the Valetta Horse-racing—bells jangling, and stupefying music playing all day’. Afterwards, in 1819, Coleridge maintained that they were written ‘between the age of 15 and 16’.

4 the] this MS.                    6 A distant Hiss of fire MS. alternative reading.  
 7 lessens] lessened MS.            12 flutters] fluttered MS.            13 mutters]  
 muttered MS.

What is Life?—1 deem'd] held *Lit. Souvenir*, 1829.    2 ample] simple MS.

6 { perse (in its own Nature)  
 6 { Is Life itself MS.

## THE BLOSSOMING OF THE SOLITARY DATE-TREE<sup>1</sup>

### A LAMENT

I SEEM to have an indistinct recollection of having read either in one of the ponderous tomes of George of Venice, or in some other compilation from the uninspired Hebrew writers, an apologue or Rabbinical tradition to the following purpose :

While our first parents stood before their offended Maker, and the last 5 words of the sentence were yet sounding in Adam's ear, the guileful false serpent, a counterfeit and a usurper from the beginning, presumptuously took on himself the character of advocate or mediator, and pretending to intercede for Adam, exclaimed : 'Nay, Lord, in thy justice, not so ! for the man was the least in fault. Rather let the Woman return at once to 10 the dust, and let Adam remain in this thy Paradise.' And the word of the Most High answered Satan : '*The tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.* Treacherous Fiend ! if with guilt like thine, it had been possible for thee to have the heart of a Man, and to feel the yearning of a human soul for its counterpart, the sentence, which thou now counsellest, should have 15 been inflicted on thyself.'

The title of the following poem was suggested by a fact mentioned by Linnaeus, of a date-tree in a nobleman's garden which year after year had put forth a full show of blossoms, but never produced fruit, till a branch from another date-tree had been conveyed from a distance of 20 some hundred leagues. The first leaf of the MS. from which the poem has been transcribed, and which contained the two or three introductory stanzas, is wanting : and the author has in vain taxed his memory to repair the loss. But a rude draught of the poem contains the substance of the stanzas, and the reader is requested to receive it as the substitute.<sup>25</sup> It is not impossible, that some congenial spirit, whose years do not exceed those of the Author at the time the poem was written, may find a pleasure in restoring the Lament to its original integrity by a reduction of the thoughts to the requisite metre.

S. T. C.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1828 : included in 1829 and 1834.

5 stood] were yet standing 1828. 8 mediator] moderator 1828.  
 9 The words 'not so' are omitted in 1828. 11 remain here all the days  
 of his now mortal life, and enjoy the respite thou mayest grant him, in this  
 thy Paradise which thou gavest to him, and hast planted with every tree  
 pleasant to the sight of man and of delicious fruitage. 1828. 13 foll.  
*Treacherous Fiend!* guilt deep as thine could not be, yet the love of kind  
 not extinguished. But if having done what thou hast done, thou hadst  
 yet the heart of man within thee, and the yearning of the soul for its  
 answering image and completing counterpart, O spirit, desperately  
 wicked ! the sentence thou counsellest had been thy own ! 1828.  
 20 from a Date tree 1828, 1829.

## I

BENEATH the blaze of a tropical sun the mountain peaks are 30  
the Thrones of Frost, through the absence of objects to reflect  
the rays. ‘What no one with us shares, seems scarce our own.’  
The presence of a ONE,

The best belov’d, who loveth me the best,

is for the heart, what the supporting air from within is for the 35  
hollow globe with its suspended car. Deprive it of this, and  
all without, that would have buoyed it aloft even to the seat  
of the gods, becomes a burthen and crushes it into flatness.

## 2

The finer the sense for the beautiful and the lovely, and the  
fairer and lovelier the object presented to the sense ; the more 40  
exquisite the individual’s capacity of joy, and the more ample  
his means and opportunities of enjoyment, the more heavily  
will he feel the ache of solitariness, the more unsubstantial  
becomes the feast spread around him. What matters it,  
whether in fact the viands and the ministering graces are 45  
shadowy or real, to him who has not hand to grasp nor arms  
to embrace them ?

## 3

Imagination ; honourable aims ;  
Free commune with the choir that cannot die ;  
Science and song ; delight in little things, 50  
The buoyant child surviving in the man ;  
Fields, forests, ancient mountains, ocean, sky,  
With all their voices—O dare I accuse  
My earthly lot as guilty of my spleen,  
Or call my destiny niggard ! O no ! no ! 55  
It is her largeness, and her overflow,  
Which being incomplete, disquieteth me so !

## 4

For never touch of gladness stirs my heart,  
But tim’rously beginning to rejoice  
Like a blind Arab, that from sleep doth start 60  
In lonesome tent, I listen for thy voice.

48 Hope, Imagination, &c. 1828.      53 With all their voices mute—  
O dare I accuse 1828.      55 Or call my niggard destiny ! No ! No ! 1828.  
61 thy] thy 1828, 1829.

Belovéd ! 'tis not thine ; thou art not there !  
 Then melts the bubble into idle air,  
 And wishing without hope I restlessly despair.

## 5

The mother with anticipated glee 65  
 Smiles o'er the child, that, standing by her chair  
 And flatt'ning its round cheek upon her knee,  
 Looks up, and doth its rosy lips prepare  
 To mock the coming sounds. At that sweet sight  
 She hears her own voice with a new delight ; 70  
 And if the babe perchance should lisp the notes aright,

## 6

Then is she tenfold gladder than before !  
 But should disease or chance the darling take,  
 What then avail those songs, which sweet of yore  
 Were only sweet for their sweet echo's sake ? 75  
 Dear maid ! no prattler at a mother's knee  
 Was e'er so dearly prized as I prize thee :  
 Why was I made for Love and Love denied to me ?

1805.

SEPARATION<sup>1</sup>

A SWORDED man whose trade is blood,  
 In grief, in anger, and in fear,  
 Thro' jungle, swamp, and torrent flood,  
 I seek the wealth you hold so dear !

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. In Pickering's one-volume edition of the issue of 1848 the following note is printed on p. 372 :—

'The fourth and last stanzas are adapted from the twelfth and last of Cotton's *Chlorinda* [Ode] :—

'O my Chlorinda ! could'st thou see  
 Into the bottom of my heart,  
 There's such a Mine of Love for thee,  
 The Treasure would supply desert.

Meanwhile my Exit now draws nigh,  
 When, sweet Chlorinda, thou shalt see  
 That I have heart enough to die,  
 Not half enough to part with thee.

'The fifth stanza is the eleventh of Cotton's poem.'  
 In 1852 (p. 385) the note reads : 'The fourth and last stanzas are from Cotton's *Chlorinda*, with very slight alteration.'

77 thee] thee 1828, 1829.

The dazzling charm of outward form,  
The power of gold, the pride of birth,  
Have taken Woman's heart by storm—  
    Usurp'd the place of inward worth.

Is not true Love of higher price  
    Than outward Form, though fair to see,  
Wealth's glittering fairy-dome of ice,  
    Or echo of proud ancestry?—

O! Asra, Asra! couldst thou see  
    Into the bottom of my heart,  
There's such a mine of Love for thee,  
    As almost might supply desert!

(This separation is, alas!  
    Too great a punishment to bear;  
O! take my life, or let me pass  
    That life, that happy life, with her!)

A first draft of this adaptation is contained in one of Coleridge's Malta Notebooks:—

[I]

Made worthy by excess of Love  
A wretch thro' power of Happiness,  
And poor from wealth I dare not use.

[II]

This separation etc.

[III]

~~The Pomp of Wealth~~  
~~Stores of Gold, the pomp of Wealth~~  
~~Nor less the Pride of Noble Birth~~  
The dazzling charm etc.

(l. 4) Supplied the place etc.

[IV]

Is not true Love etc.

[V]

O ΑΣΠΑ! ΑΣΠΑ could'st thou see  
    Into the bottom of my Heart!  
There's such a Mine of Love for Thee—  
    The Treasure would supply desert.

[VI]

Death erst contemn'd—O ΑΣΠΑ! why  
    Now terror-stricken do I see—  
Oh! I have etc.

The perils, erst with steadfast eye  
 Encounter'd, now I shrink to see—  
 Oh! I have heart enough to die—  
 Not half enough to part from Thee!

? 1805.

### THE RASH CONJURER<sup>1</sup>

STRONG spirit-bidding sounds!  
 With deep and hollow voice,  
 'Twixt Hope and Dread,  
 Seven Times I said  
 Iohva Mitzoveh  
 Vohoeen!<sup>2</sup>

5

And up came an imp in the shape of a  
 Pea-hen!

I saw, I doubted,  
 And seven times spouted  
 Johva Mitzoveh  
 Yahóevohäen!

10

When Anti-Christ starting up, butting  
 and bääing,  
 In the shape of a mischievous curly  
 black Lamb—  
 With a vast flock of Devils behind  
 and beside,  
 And before 'em their Shepherdess  
 Lucifer's Dam,  
 Riding astride  
 On an old black Ram,

15

20

<sup>1</sup> Now first printed from one of Coleridge's Notebooks. The last stanza—the Epilogue—was first published by H. N. Coleridge as part of an 'Uncomposed Poem', in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 52: first collected in Appendix to *P. and D. W.*, 1877–80, ii. 366. There is no conclusive evidence as to the date of composition. The handwriting, and the contents of the Notebook might suggest a date between 1813 and 1816. The verses are almost immediately preceded by a detached note printed at the close of an essay entitled 'Self-love in Religion' which is included among the 'Omniana of 1809', *Literary Remains*, 1834, i. 354–6: 'O magical, sympathetic, anima! [Archeus, MS.] principium hylarchicum! rationes spermaticæ! λόγου ποιητικοῦ! O formidable words! And O Man! thou marvellous beast-angel! thou ambitious beggar! How pompously dost thou trick out thy very ignorance with such glorious disguises, that thou mayest seem to hide in order to worship it.'

With this piece as a whole compare Southey's 'Ballad of a Young Man that would read unlawful Books, and how he was punished'.

<sup>2</sup> A cabballistic invocation of Jehovah, obscure in the original Hebrew. I am informed that the second word Mitzoveh may stand for 'from Sabaoth'.

With Tartary stirrups, knees up to her chin,  
And a sleek chrysom imp to her Dugs muzzled in,—

‘Gee-up, my old Belzy ! (she cried,

25

As she sung to her suckling cub)

Trit-a-trot, trot ! we'll go far and wide

Trot, Ram-Devil ! Trot ! Belzebub !’

Her petticoat fine was of scarlet Brocade,

And soft in her lap her Baby she lay'd

30

With his pretty Nubs of Horns a-

sprouting,

And his pretty little Tail all curly-twirly—

St. Dunstan ! and this comes of spouting—

Of Devils what a Hurly-Burly !

35

‘Behold we are up ! what want'st thou then ?’

‘Sirs ! only that’—‘Say when and what’—

‘You'd be so good’—‘Say what and when’

‘This moment to get down again !’

‘We do it ! we do it ! we all get down !

40

But we take you with us to swim

or drown !

Down a down to the grim Engulpher !’

‘O me ! I am floundering in Fire and Sulphur !

That the Dragon had scrounced you, squeal

45

and squall—

Cabbalists ! Conjurors ! great and small,

Johva Mitzoveh Evohäen and all !

Had *I* never uttered your jaw-breaking words,

I might now have been sloshing down Junket and Curds,

Like a Devonshire Christian :

51

But now a Philistine !

Ye Earthmen ! be warned by a judgement so tragic,

And wipe yourselves cleanly with all books of magic—

Hark ! hark ! it is Dives ! ‘Hold your Bother, you Booby !

I am burnt ashy white, and you yet are but ruby.’

56

### *Epilogue.*

We ask and urge (here ends the story)

All Christian Papishes to pray

That this unhappy Conjuror may

Instead of Hell, be but in Purgatory—

60

For then there's Hope,—

Long live the Pope !

Catholicus.

A CHILD'S EVENING PRAYER<sup>1</sup>

ERE on my bed my limbs I lay,  
 God grant me grace my prayers to say :  
 O God ! preserve my mother dear  
 In strength and health for many a year ;  
 And, O ! preserve my father too,      5  
 And may I pay him reverence due ;  
 And may I my best thoughts employ  
 To be my parents' hope and joy ;  
 And O ! preserve my brothers both  
 From evil doings and from sloth,      10  
 And may we always love each other  
 Our friends, our father, and our mother :  
 And still, O Lord, to me impart  
 An innocent and grateful heart,  
 That after my great sleep I may      15  
 Awake to thy eternal day ! *Amen.*

1806.

METRICAL FEET<sup>2</sup>

## LESSON FOR A BOY

TRÖCHËE trips fröm lön̄g tō shört ;  
 From long to long in solemn sort  
 Slöw Spöndëe stälks ; ströng fōot ! yet ill able  
 Èvér tō cōme üp wíth Däctyl trisyllablë.  
 Ľambïes märch fröm shört tō lön̄g ;—      5  
 With a lēap and a bōund thë swïft Änäpästs thröng ;

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1852. A transcript in the handwriting of Mrs. S. T. Coleridge is in the possession of the Editor.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1834. The metrical lesson was begun for Hartley Coleridge in 1806 and, afterwards, finished or adapted for the use of his brother Derwent. The Editor possesses the autograph of a metrical rendering of the Greek alphabet, entitled 'A Greek Song set to Music, and sung by Hartley Coleridge, Esq., Graecologian, philometrist and philomelist'.

3 mother] father MS.      5 father] mother MS.      6 him] her MS.

7-8      And may I still my thoughts employ  
           To be her comfort and her joy MS.

9 O likewise keep MS.      13 But chiefly, Lord MS.      15 great] last  
 P. W. 1877-80, 1893.      After 16 Our father, &c. MS.

Metrical Feet—Title] The chief and most usual Metrical Feet expressed in metre and addressed to Hartley Coleridge MS. of Lines 1-7.

One syllable long, with one short at each side,  
 Āmphībrāchŷs hâstes wîth ā stâtelŷ stride ;—  
 First and last bêng lông, middlē shôrt, Āmphi'mâcer  
 Strîkes his thûndêring hoofs like ā prôud hîgh-brêd Râcer.  
 If Derwent be innocent, steady, and wise,      ii  
 And delight in the things of earth, water, and skies ;  
 Tender warmth at his heart, with these metres to show it,  
 With sound sense in his brains, may make Derwent a poet,—  
 May crown him with fame, and must win him the love    15  
 Of his father on earth and his Father above.

My dear, dear child !  
 Could you stand upon Skiddaw, you would not from its  
 whole ridge  
 See a man who so loves you as your fond S. T. COLERIDGE.  
 1806.

### FAREWELL TO LOVE<sup>1</sup>

FAREWELL, sweet Love ! yet blame you not my truth ;  
 More fondly ne'er did mother eye her child  
 Than I your form : yours were my hopes of youth,  
 And as you shaped my thoughts I sighed or smiled.

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Courier*, September 27, 1806, and reprinted in the *Morning Herald*, October 11, 1806, and in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for November, 1815, vol. lxxxv, p. 448 : included in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 280, and in *Letters, Conversations, &c.*, [by T. Allsop], 1836, i. 143. First collected, appendix, 1863. This sonnet is modelled upon and in part borrowed from Lord Brooke's (Fulke Greville) Sonnet LXXIV of Coelica : and was inscribed on the margin of Charles Lamb's copy of *Certain Learned and Elegant Works of the Right Honourable Fulke Lord Brooke . . . 1633*, p. 284.

'Coelica'. Sonnet lxxiv.

FAREWELL sweet Boy, complaine not of my truth ;  
 Thy Mother lov'd thee not with more devotion ;  
 For to thy Boyes play I gave all my youth  
 Yong Master, I did hope for your promotion.

While some sought Honours, Princes thoughts observing,  
 Many woo'd Fame, the child of paine and anguish,  
 Others judg'd inward good a chiefe deserving,  
 I in thy wanton Visions joy'd to languish.

1-2      Farewell my Love ! yet blame ye not my Truth ;  
 More fondly never mother ey'd her child MS. 1806.  
 Sweet power of Love, farewell ! nor blame my truth,  
 More fondly never Mother ey'd her Child Courier, M. H.

4 And as you wove the dream I sigh'd or smil'd MS. 1806 : And as  
 you wove my thoughts, I sigh'd or smil'd Courier, M. H.

While most were wooing wealth, or gaily swerving  
 To pleasure's secret haunts, and some apart  
 Stood strong in pride, self-conscious of deserving,  
 To you I gave my whole weak wishing heart.

And when I met the maid that realised  
 Your fair creations, and had won her kindness,  
 Say, but for her if aught on earth I prized !  
 Your dreams alone I dreamt, and caught your blindness.

O grief!—but farewell, Love! I will go play me  
 With thoughts that please me less, and less betray me.

1806.

### TO WILLIAM WORDSWORTH<sup>1</sup>

COMPOSED ON THE NIGHT AFTER HIS RECITATION OF A POEM ON  
 THE GROWTH OF AN INDIVIDUAL MIND

FRIEND of the wise! and Teacher of the Good!  
 Into my heart have I received that Lay

I bow'd not to thy image for succession,  
 Nor bound thy bow to shoot reformed kindnesse,  
 The playes of hope and feare were my confession  
 The spectacles to my life was thy blindnesse :

But Cupid now farewell, I will goe play me,  
 With thoughts that please me lesse, and lesse betray me.

For an adaptation of Sonnet XCIV, entitled 'Lines on a King-and-Emperor-Making King—altered from the 93rd Sonnet of Fulke Greville', vide Appendices of this edition.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817: included in 1828, 1829, 1834. The poem was sent in a Letter to Sir G. Beaumont dated January, 1807, and in this shape was first printed by Professor Knight in *Coleorton Letters*,

5-7 While some sought Wealth; others to Pleasure swerving,  
 Many woo'd Fame: and some stood firm apart  
 In joy of pride, self-conscious of deserving MS. 1806, *Courier*, M. H.  
 6 haunts] haunt L. R., *Letters*, &c., 1836, 1863. 8 weak wishing]  
 weak-wishing *Courier*, M. H. 9 that] who *Courier*, M. H. 13 will]  
 must *Courier*, M. H.

To William Wordsworth—Title] To W. Wordsworth. Lines Composed, for the greater part on the Night, on which he finished the recitation of his Poem (in thirteen Books) concerning the growth and history of his own Mind, Jan. 7, 1807, Cole-orton, near Ashby de la Zouch MS. W.: To William Wordsworth. Composed for the greater part on the same night after the finishing of his recitation of the Poem in thirteen Books, on the Growth of his own Mind MS. B: To a Gentleman, &c. S. L. 1828, 1829.

1 O Friend! O Teacher! God's great gift to me! MSS. W., B.  
 d d 2

More than historic, that prophetic Lay  
 Wherein (high theme by thee first sung aright)  
 Of the foundations and the building up      5  
 Of a Human Spirit thou hast dared to tell  
 What may be told, to the understanding mind  
 Reveable; and what within the mind  
 By vital breathings secret as the soul  
 Of vernal growth, oft quickens in the heart      10  
 Thoughts all too deep for words!—

Theme hard as high!

Of smiles spontaneous, and mysterious fears  
 (The first-born they of Reason and twin-birth),  
 Of tides obedient to external force,  
 And currents self-determined, as might seem,      15  
 Or by some inner Power; of moments awful,  
 Now in thy inner life, and now abroad,

1887, i. 213-18; and as Appendix H, pp. 525-6, of *P. W.*, 1893 (*MS. B.*). An earlier version of about the same date was given to Wordsworth, and is now in the possession of his grandson, Mr. Gordon Wordsworth (*MS. W.*). The text of *Sibylline Leaves* differs widely from that of the original MSS. Lines 11-47 are quoted in a Letter to Wordsworth, dated May 30, 1815 (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, i. 646-7), and lines 65-75 at the end of Chapter X of the *Biographia Literaria*, 1817, i. 220.

*Between 5-13* Of thy own Spirit, thou hast lov'd to tell  
 What may be told, to th' understanding mind  
 Reveable; and what within the mind  
 May rise enkindled. Theme as hard as high!  
 Of Smiles spontaneous and mysterious Fear. *MS. W.*  
 Of thy own spirit thou hast loved to tell  
 What may be told, by words revealable;  
 With heavenly breathings, like the secret soul  
 Of vernal growth, oft quickening in the heart,  
 Thoughts that obey no mastery of words,  
 Pure self-beholdings! theme as hard as high,  
 Of smiles spontaneous and mysterious fear. *MS. B.*

9 By vital breathings like the secret soul *S. L. 1828.*      16 Or by  
 interior power *MS. W.*: Or by some central breath *MS. Letter, 1815.*      17  
 [inner] hidden *MS. W., B.*

*Between 17-41* Mid festive crowds, thy Brows too garlanded,  
 A Brother of the Feast: of Fancies fair,  
*Hyblaean murmurs of poetic Thought,*  
*Industrious in its Joy, by lilded Streams*  
*Native or outland, Lakes and famous Hills!*  
*Of more than Fancy, of the Hope of Man*  
*Amid the tremor of a Realm aglow—*  
*Where France in all her Towns lay vibrating*

When power streamed from thee, and thy soul received  
 The light reflected, as a light bestowed—  
 Of fancies fair, and milder hours of youth,                           20  
 Hyblean murmurs of poetic thought  
 Industrious in its joy, in vales and glens  
 Native or outland, lakes and famous hills !  
 Or on the lonely high-road, when the stars  
 Were rising ; or by secret mountain-streams,                           25  
 The guides and the companions of thy way !

Of more than Fancy, of the Social Sense  
 Distending wide, and man beloved as man,  
 Where France in all her towns lay vibrating  
 Like some becalm'd bark beneath the burst                           30  
 Of Heaven's immediate thunder, when no cloud  
 Is visible, or shadow on the main.  
 For thou wert there, thine own brows garlanded,  
 Amid the tremor of a realm aglow,  
 Amid a mighty nation jubilant,   35  
 When from the general heart of human kind  
 Hope sprang forth like a full-born Deity !  
 —Of that dear Hope afflicted and struck down,  
 So summoned homeward, thenceforth calm and sure  
 From the dread watch-tower of man's absolute self,                   40

Ev'n as a Bark becalm'd on sultry seas  
 Beneath the voice from Heav'n, the bursting crash  
*Of Heaven's immediate thunder ! when no cloud*  
*Is visible, or Shadow on the Main !*  
 Ah ! soon night roll'd on night, and every Cloud  
 Open'd its eye of Fire : and Hope aloft  
 Now flutter'd, and now toss'd upon the storm  
 Floating ! Of Hope afflicted and struck down  
 Thence summoned homeward—homeward to thy Heart,  
 Oft from the Watch-tower of Man's absolute self,  
 With light, &c. MS. W.

27 social sense MS. B.

28 Distending, and of man MS. B.

29-30 Even as a bark becalm'd on sultry seas

Quivers beneath the voice from Heaven, the burst MS. B.

30 Ev'n as a bark becalm'd beneath the burst

MS. Letter, 1815, S.L. 1828.

33 thine] thy MS. B., MS. Letter, 1815.

37 a full-born] an arméed

MS. B.

38 Of that dear hope afflicted and amazed MS. Letter, 1815.

39 So homeward summoned MS. Letter, 1815.      40 As from the watch-tower MS. B.

With light unwaning on her eyes, to look  
 Far on—herself a glory to behold,  
 The Angel of the vision ! Then (last strain)  
 Of Duty, chosen Laws controlling choice,  
 Action and joy !—An Orphic song indeed,  
 A song divine of high and passionate thoughts  
 To their own music chaunted !

45

O great Bard !

Ere yet that last strain dying awed the air,  
 With stedfast eye I viewed thee in the choir  
 Of ever-enduring men. The truly great  
 Have all one age, and from one visible space  
 Shed influence ! They, both in power and act,  
 Are permanent, and Time is not with them,  
 Save as it worketh for them, they in it.  
 Nor less a sacred Roll, than those of old,  
 And to be placed, as they, with gradual fame  
 Among the archives of mankind, thy work  
 Makes audible a linked lay of Truth,  
 Of Truth profound a sweet continuous lay,  
 Not learnt, but native, her own natural notes !  
 Ah ! as I listened with a heart forlorn,

55

50

60

44 controlling] ? impelling, ? directing *MS. W.*

45–6            Virtue and Love—an Orphic Tale indeed  
                 A Tale divine *MS. W.*

45 song] tale *MS. B.*        46 song] tale *MS. B.* thoughts] truths *MS. Letter, 1815.*

47–9

Ah ! great Bard

Ere yet that last swell dying aw'd the air  
 With stedfast ken I viewed thee in the choir *MS. W.*

48 that] the *MS. B.*

49 With steadfast eyes I saw thee *MS. B.*

52 for they, both power and act *MS. B.*        53 them] *them S. L. 1828, 1829.*

54 for them, they in it *S. L. 1828, 1829.*        58 lay] song *MSS. W., B.*

59 lay] song *MSS. W., B.*

61 full.

Dear shall it be to every human heart,  
 To me how more than dearest ! me, on whom  
 Comfort from thee, and utterance of thy love,  
 Came with such heights and depths of harmony,  
 Such sense of wings uplifting, that the storm  
 Scatter'd and whirl'd me, till my thoughts became  
 A bodily tumult ; and thy faithful hopes,  
 Thy hopes of me, dear Friend ! by me unfelt !  
 Were troublous to me, almost as a voice,  
 Familiar once, and more than musical ;  
 To one cast forth, whose hope had seem'd to die  
 A wanderer with a worn-out heart

5

10

The pulses of my being beat anew :  
And even as Life returns upon the drowned,  
Life's joy rekindling roused a throng of pains—  
Keen pangs of Love, awaking as a babe . . . . . 65  
Turbulent, with an outery in the heart ;  
And fears self-willed, that shunned the eye of Hope ;  
And Hope that scarce would know itself from Fear ;  
Sense of past Youth, and Manhood come in vain,  
And Genius given, and Knowledge won in vain ; . . . . . 70  
And all which I had culled in wood-walks wild,  
And all which patient toil had reared, and all,  
Commune with thee had opened out—but flowers  
Strewed on my corse, and borne upon my bier,  
In the same coffin, for the self-same grave ! . . . . . 75

That way no more ! and ill beseems it me,  
Who came a welcomer in herald's guise,  
Singing of Glory, and Futurity,  
To wander back on such unhealthful road,  
Plucking the poisons of self-harm ! And ill  
Such intertwine beseems triumphal wreaths  
Strew'd before thy advancing !

Nor do thou,  
Sage Bard! impair the memory of that hour  
Of thy communion with my nobler mind  
By pity or grief, already felt too long!  
Nor let my words import more blame than needs.  
The tumult rose and ceased: for Peace is nigh

Mid strangers pining with untended wounds.  
O Friend, too well thou know'st, of what sad years  
The long suppression had benumb'd my soul,  
That even as life returns upon the drown'd,  
The unusual joy awoke a throng of pains—  
*Keen pangs, &c. MSS. B, W with the following variants:—*

ll. 5-6 Such sense of wings uplifting, that its might  
Scatter'd and quell'd me— MS. B.  
ll. 11, 12 As a dear woman's voice to one cast forth  
A wanderer with a worn-out heart forlorn.

73 thee] thee S. L. 1828, 1829. 74 Strewed] Strown MS. B., 1828, 1829.  
82 thy] thy S. L. 1828, 1829.

82-3

8-3

Thou too, Friend!

O injure not the memory of that hour MS. W.

Thou too, Friend!

Impair thou not the memory of that Hour *MS. B.*

Where Wisdom's voice has found a listening heart.  
 Amid the howl of more than wintry storms,  
 The Haleyon hears the voice of vernal hours  
 Already on the wing.

90

Eve following eve,  
 Dear tranquil time, when the sweet sense of Home  
 Is sweetest! moments for their own sake hailed  
 And more desired, more precious, for thy song,  
 In silence listening, like a devout child,  
 My soul lay passive, by thy various strain  
 Driven as in surges now beneath the stars,  
 With momentary stars of my own birth,  
 Fair constellated foam,<sup>1</sup> still darting off  
 Into the darkness; now a tranquil sea,  
 Outspread and bright, yet swelling to the moon.

100

And when—O Friend! my comforter and guide!  
 Strong in thyself, and powerful to give strength!—  
 Thy long sustainéd Song finally closed,  
 And thy deep voice had ceased—yet thou thyself  
 Wert still before my eyes, and round us both  
 That happy vision of belovéd faces—  
 Scarce conscious, and yet conscious of its close  
 I sate, my being blended in one thought  
 (Thought was it? or aspiration? or resolve?)  
 Absorbed, yet hanging still upon the sound—  
 And when I rose, I found myself in prayer.

105

110

*January, 1807.*

<sup>1</sup> ‘A beautiful white cloud of Foam at momentary intervals coursed by the side of the Vessel with a Roar, and little stars of flame danced and sparkled and went out in it: and every now and then light detachments of this white cloud-like foam dashed off from the vessel’s side, each with its own small constellation, over the Sea, and scoured out of sight like a Tartar Troop over a wilderness.’ *The Friend*, p. 220. [From Satyrane’s First Letter, published in *The Friend*, No. 14, Nov. 23, 1809.]

93 Becomes most sweet! hours for their own sake hail’d *MS. W.*

96 thy] the *MS. B.* 98 my] her *MS. B.* 102 and] my *MSS. W., B.*  
 104 Song] lay *MS. W.* 106 my] mine *MSS. W., B.*

*Between 107-8*

(All whom I deepest love—in one room all!) *MSS. W., B.*

AN ANGEL VISITANT<sup>1</sup>

WITHIN these circling hollies woodbine-clad—  
 Beneath this small blue roof of vernal sky—  
 How warm, how still! Tho' tears should dim mine eye,  
 Yet will my heart for days continue glad,  
 For here, my love, thou art, and here am I!

? 1801.

RECOLLECTIONS OF LOVE<sup>2</sup>

## I

How warm this woodland wild Recess!  
 Love surely hath been breathing here;  
 And this sweet bed of heath, my dear!  
 Swells up, then sinks with faint caress,  
 As if to have you yet more near.

5

## II

Eight springs have flown, since last I lay  
 On sea-ward Quantock's heathy hills,  
 Where quiet sounds from hidden rills  
 Float here and there, like things astray,  
 And high o'er head the sky-lark shrills.

10

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 280. First collected in *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80. The title was prefixed to the *Poems of Coleridge* (illustrated edition), 1907. This 'exquisite fragment... was probably composed as the opening of *Recollections of Love*, and abandoned on account of a change of metre.'—*Editor's Note*, 1893 (p. 635). It is in no way a translation, but the thought or idea was suggested by one of the German stanzas which Coleridge selected and copied into one of his Notebooks as models or specimens of various metres. For the original, vide Appendices of this edition.

<sup>2</sup> First published in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817: included in 1828, 1829, and 1834. It is impossible to fix the date of composition, though internal evidence points to July, 1807, when Coleridge revisited Stowey after a long absence. The first stanza, a variant of the preceding fragment, is introduced into a prose fancy, entitled 'Questions and Answers in the Court of Love', of uncertain date, but perhaps written at Malta in 1805 (vide Appendices of this edition). A first draft of stanzas 1-4 (vide supra) is included in the collection of metrical experiments and metrical schemes, modelled on German and Italian originals, which seems to have been begun in 1801, with a view to a projected 'Essay on Metre'. Stanzas 5, 6 are not contemporary with stanzas 1-4, and, perhaps, date from 1814, 1815, when *Sibylline Leaves* were being prepared for the press.

## III

No voice as yet had made the air  
 Be music with your name ; yet why  
 That asking look ? that yearning sigh ?  
 That sense of promise every where ?  
 Belovéd ! flew your spirit by ?

15

## IV

As when a mother doth explore  
 The rose-mark on her long-lost child,  
 I met, I loved you, maiden mild !  
 As whom I long had loved before—  
 So deeply had I been beguiled.

20

## V

You stood before me like a thought,  
 A dream remembered in a dream.  
 But when those meek eyes first did seem  
 To tell me, Love within you wrought—  
 O Greta, dear domestic stream !

25

## VI

Has not, since then, Love's prompture deep,  
 Has not Love's whisper evermore  
 Been ceaseless, as thy gentle roar ?  
 Sole voice, when other voices sleep,  
 Dear under-song in clamor's hour.

30

1807.

TO TWO SISTERS<sup>1</sup>

[MARY MORGAN AND CHARLOTTE BRENT]

## A WANDERER'S FAREWELL

To know, to esteem, to love,—and then to part—  
 Makes up life's tale to many a feeling heart ;  
 Alas for some abiding-place of love,  
 O'er which my spirit, like the mother dove,  
 Might brood with warming wings !

O fair ! O kind ! 5

<sup>1</sup> First published in *The Courier*, December 10, 1807, with the signature SIESTI. First collected in *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80. The following

Sisters in blood, yet each with each intwined  
 More close by sisterhood of heart and mind !  
 Me disinherited in form and face  
 By nature, and mishap of outward grace ;  
 Who, soul and body, through one guiltless fault      10  
 Waste daily with the poison of sad thought,  
 Me did you soothe, when solace hoped I none !  
 And as on unthaw'd ice the winter sun,  
 Though stern the frost, though brief the genial day,  
 You bless my heart with many a cheerful ray ;      15  
 For gratitude suspends the heart's despair,  
 Reflecting bright though cold your image there.  
 Nay more ! its music by some sweeter strain  
 Makes us live o'er our happiest hours again,  
 Hope re-appearing dim in memory's guise—      20  
 Even thus did you call up before mine eyes  
 Two dear, dear Sisters, prized all price above,  
 Sisters, like you, with more than sisters' love ;  
 So like you *they*, and so in *you* were seen  
 Their relative statures, tempers, looks, and mien,      25  
 That oft, dear ladies ! you have been to me  
 At once a vision and reality.  
 Sight seem'd a sort of memory, and amaze  
 Mingled a trouble with affection's gaze.

Oft to my eager soul I whisper blame,      30  
 A Stranger bid it feel the Stranger's shame—  
 My eager soul, impatient of the name,  
 No strangeness owns, no Stranger's form deseries :  
 The chidden heart spreads trembling on the eyes.

abbreviated and altered version was included in *P. W.*, 1834, 1844, and 1852, with the heading 'On taking Leave of —— 1817' :—

To know, to esteem, to love—and then to part,  
 Makes up life's tale to many a feeling heart !  
 O for some dear abiding-place of Love,  
 O'er which my spirit, like the mother dove  
 Might brood with warming wings !—O fair as kind,  
 Were but one sisterhood with you combined,  
 (Your very image they in shape and mind)  
 Far rather would I sit in solitude,  
 The forms of memory all my mental food,  
 And dream of you, sweet sisters, (ah, not mine !)  
 And only dream of you (ah dream and pine !)  
 Than have the presence, and partake the pride,  
 And shine in the eye of all the world beside !

First-seen I gazed, as I would look you thro'!  
 My best-beloved regain'd their youth in you,—  
 And still I ask, though now familiar grown,  
 Are you for *their* sakes dear, or for your own?  
 O doubly dear! may Quiet with you dwell!

35

In Grief I love you, yet I love you well!  
 Hope long is dead to me! an orphan's tear  
 Love wept despairing o'er his nurse's bier.  
 Yet still she flutters o'er her grave's green slope:  
 For Love's despair is but the ghost of Hope!

40

Sweet Sisters! were you placed around one hearth  
 With those, your other selves in shape and worth,  
 Far rather would I sit in solitude,  
 Fond recollections all my fond heart's food,  
 And dream of *you*, sweet Sisters! (ah! not mine!)  
 And only dream of you (ah! dream and pine!)  
 Than boast the presence and partake the pride,  
 And shine in the eye, of all the world beside.

45

50

1807.

PSYCHE<sup>1</sup>

THE butterfly the ancient Grecians made  
 The soul's fair emblem, and its only name—<sup>2</sup>  
 But of the soul, escaped the slavish trade  
 Of mortal life!—For in this earthly frame  
 Ours is the reptile's lot, much toil, much blame,  
 Manifold motions making little speed,  
 And to deform and kill the things whereon we feed.

5

1808.

<sup>1</sup> First published with a prefatory note:—‘The fact that in Greek Psyche is the common name for the soul, and the butterfly, is thus alluded to in the following stanzas from an unpublished poem of the Author’, in the *Biographia Literaria*, 1817, i. 82, n. : included (as No. II of ‘Three Scraps’) in *Amulet*, 1833: *Lit. Rem.*, 1836, i. 53. First collected in 1844. In *Lit. Rem.* and 1844 the poem is dated 1808.

<sup>2</sup> Psyche means both Butterfly and Soul. *Amulet*, 1833.

In some instances the Symbolic and Onomastic are united as in Psyche=Anima et papilio. *MS. S. T. C.* (Hence the word ‘name’ was italicised in the MS.)

Title] The Butterfly *Amulet*, 1833, 1877-81, 1893.

<sup>4</sup> Of earthly life. For in this fleshly frame *MS. S. T. C.* : Of earthly life ! For, in this mortal frame *Amulet*, 1833, 1893.

A TOMBLESS EPITAPH<sup>1</sup>

'TIS true, Idoloclastes Satyrane !  
 (So call him, for so mingling blame with praise,  
 And smiles with anxious looks, his earliest friends,  
 Masking his birth-name, wont to character  
 His wild-wood fancy and impetuous zeal,) 5  
 'Tis true that, passionate for ancient truths,  
 And honouring with religious love the Great  
 Of elder times, he hated to excess,  
 With an unquiet and intolerant scorn,  
 The hollow Puppets of a hollow Age, 10  
 Ever idolatrous, and changing ever  
 Its worthless Idols ! Learning, Power, and Time,  
 (Too much of all) thus wasting in vain war  
 Of fervid colloquy. Sickness, 'tis true,  
 Whole years of weary days, besieged him close, 15  
 Even to the gates and inlets of his life !  
 But it is true, no less, that strenuous, firm,  
 And with a natural gladness, he maintained  
 The citadel unconquered, and in joy  
 Was strong to follow the delightful Muse. 20  
 For not a hidden path, that to the shades  
 Of the beloved Parnassian forest leads,  
 Lurked undiscovered by him ; not a rill  
 There issues from the fount of Hippocrene,  
 But he had traced it upward to its source, 25  
 Through open glade, dark glen, and secret dell,  
 Knew the gay wild flowers on its banks, and culled  
 Its med'cinal herbs. Yea, oft alone,  
 Piercing the long-neglected holy cave,

<sup>1</sup> First published in *The Friend*, No. XIV, November 23, 1809. There is no title or heading to the poem, which occupies the first page of the number, but a footnote is appended :—‘Imitated, though in the movements rather than the thoughts, from the vii<sup>th</sup>, of *Gli Epitafi* of Chiabrera :

Fu ver, che Ambrosio Salinero a torto  
 Si pose in pena d'odiose liti,' &c.

Included in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, 1828, 1829, 1834. Sir Satyrane, ‘A Satyres son yborne in forrest wylde’ (Spenser’s *Faery Queene*, Bk. I, C. vi, l. 21) rescues Una from the violence of Sarazin. Coleridge may have regarded Satyrane as the anonymn of Luther. Idoloclast, as he explains in the preface to ‘Satyrane’s Letters’, is a ‘breaker of idols’.

The haunt obscure of old Philosophy,  
 He bade with lifted torch its starry walls  
 Sparkle, as erst they sparkled to the flame  
 Of odorous lamps tended by Saint and Sage.  
 O framed for calmer times and nobler hearts!  
 O studious Poet, eloquent for truth!  
 Philosopher! contemning wealth and death,  
 Yet docile, childlike, full of Life and Love!  
 Here, rather than on monumental stone,  
 This record of thy worth thy Friend inscribes,  
 Thoughtful, with quiet tears upon his cheek.

? 1809.

30

35

40

FOR A MARKET-CLOCK<sup>1</sup>

(IMPROPTU)

WHAT now, O Man! thou dost or mean'st to do  
 Will help to give thee peace, or make thee rue,  
 When hovering o'er the Dot this hand shall tell  
 The moment that secures thee Heaven or Hell!

1809.

THE MADMAN AND THE LETHARGIST<sup>2</sup>

AN EXAMPLE

QUOTH Dick to me, as once at College  
 We argued on the use of knowledge:—

<sup>1</sup> Sent in a letter to T. Poole, October 9, 1809, and transferred to one of Coleridge's Notebooks with the heading 'Inscription proposed on a Clock in a market place': included in 'Omniana' of 1809-16 (*Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 347) with the erroneous title 'Inscription on a Clock in Cheapside'. First collected in 1893.

What now thou do'st, or art about to do,  
 Will help to give thee peace, or make thee rue;  
 When hov'ring o'er the line this hand will tell  
 The last dread moment—'twill be heaven or hell.

Read for the last two lines:—

When wav'ring o'er the dot this hand shall tell  
 The moment that secures thee Heaven or Hell.

*MS. Lit. Rem.*

<sup>2</sup> Now published for the first time from one of Coleridge's Notebooks. The use of the party catchword 'Citizen' and the allusion to 'Folks

'In old King Olim's reign, I've read,  
There lay two patients in one bed.  
The one in fat lethargic trance,  
Lay wan and motionless as lead :  
The other, (like the Folks in France),  
Possess'd a different disposition—  
In short, the plain truth to confess,  
The man was madder than Mad Bess !  
But both diseases, none disputed,  
Were unmedicinably rooted ;  
Yet, so it chanc'd, by Heaven's permission,  
Each prov'd the other's true physician.

'Fighting with a ghostly stare  
Troops of Despots in the air,  
Obstreperously Jacobinical,  
The madman froth'd, and foam'd, and roar'd :  
The other, snoring octaves cynical,  
Like good John Bull, in posture clinical,  
Seem'd living only when he snor'd.  
The *Citizen* enraged to see  
This fat Insensibility,  
Or, tir'd with solitary labour,  
Determin'd to convert his neighbour ;  
So up he sprang and to 't he fell,  
Like devil piping hot from hell,  
With indefatigable fist  
Belab'ring the poor Lethargist ;  
Till his own limbs were stiff and sore,  
And sweat-drops roll'd from every pore :—  
Yet, still, with flying fingers fleet,  
Duly accompanied by feet,  
With some short intervals of biting,  
He executes the self-same strain,  
Till the Slumberer woke for pain,  
And half-prepared himself for fighting—

in France' would suggest 1796-7 as a probable date, but the point or interpretation of the 'Example' was certainly in Coleridge's mind when he put together the first number of *The Friend*, published June 1, 1809 :—'Though all men are in error, they are not all in the same error, nor at the same time . . . each therefore may possibly heal the other . . . even as two or more physicians, all diseased in their general health, yet under the immediate action of the disease on different days, may remove or alleviate the complaints of each other.'

That moment that his mad Colleague  
 Sunk down and slept thro' pure fatigue.  
 So both were cur'd—and this example  
 Gives demonstration full and ample—  
 That *Chance* may bring a thing to bear,  
 Where *Art* sits down in blank despair.'

'That's true enough, Dick,' answer'd I,  
 'But as for the *Example*, 'tis a lie.'

? 1809

40

THE VISIONARY HOPE<sup>1</sup>

SAD lot, to have no Hope! Though lowly kneeling  
 He fain would frame a prayer within his breast,  
 Would fain entreat for some sweet breath of healing,  
 That his sick body might have ease and rest;  
 He strove in vain! the dull sighs from his chest

5

Against his will the stifling load revealing,  
 Though Nature forced; though like some captive guest,  
 Some royal prisoner at his conqueror's feast,  
 An alien's restless mood but half concealing,  
 The sternness on his gentle brow confessed,

10

Sickness within and miserable feeling:  
 Though obscure pangs made curses of his dreams,  
 And dreaded sleep, each night repelled in vain,  
 Each night was scattered by its own loud screams:  
 Yet never could his heart command, though fain,

15

One deep full wish to be no more in pain.

That Hope, which was his inward bliss and boast,  
 Which waned and died, yet ever near him stood,  
 Though changed in nature, wander where he would—  
 For Love's Despair is but Hope's pining Ghost!

20

For this one hope he makes his hourly moan,  
 He wishes and can wish for this alone!

Pierced, as with light from Heaven, before its gleams  
 (So the love-stricken visionary deems)

Disease would vanish, like a summer shower,  
 Whose dews fling sunshine from the noon-tide bower!  
 Or let it stay! yet this one Hope should give  
 Such strength that he would bless his pains and live.

? 1810.

25

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817: included in 1828, 1829, and 1834.

22 can] can *S. L.* 1828, 1829.

EPITAPH ON AN INFANT<sup>1</sup>

Its balmy lips the infant blest  
 Relaxing from its Mother's breast,  
 How sweet it heaves the happy sigh  
 Of innocent satiety!

And such my Infant's latest sigh !  
 Oh tell, rude stone ! the passer by,  
 That here the pretty babe doth lie,  
 Death sang to sleep with Lullaby.

1811.

5

THE VIRGIN'S CRADLE-HYMN<sup>2</sup>

COPIED FROM A PRINT OF THE VIRGIN IN A ROMAN CATHOLIC  
 VILLAGE IN GERMANY

DORMI, Jesu ! Mater ridet  
 Quae tam dulcem somnum videt,  
 Dormi, Jesu ! blandule !  
 Si non dormis, Mater plorat,  
 Inter fila cantans orat,  
 Blande, veni, somnule.

5

ENGLISH<sup>3</sup>

Sleep, sweet babe ! my cares beguiling :  
 Mother sits beside thee smiling ;  
 Sleep, my darling, tenderly !

<sup>1</sup> First published, with the signature 'Aphilos', in the *Courier*, Wednesday, March 20, 1811: included in *Sibylline Leares*, 1817, and in 1828, 1829, and 1834.

<sup>2</sup> First published as from 'A Correspondent in Germany' in the *Morning Post*, December 26, 1801.

<sup>3</sup> First published with the Latin in the *Courier*, August 30, 1811, with the following introduction:—'About thirteen years ago or more, travelling through the middle parts of Germany I saw a little print of the Virgin

<sup>1</sup> balmy] milky *Courier*, 1811.

<sup>5</sup> Infant's] darling's *Courier*, 1811.

<sup>6</sup> Tell simple stone *Courier*, 1811.

<sup>7</sup> the] a *Courier*, 1811.

*The Virgin's Cradle-Hymn, &c.* Title—In a Roman Catholic] In a Catholic S. L., 1828, 1829.

If thou sleep not, mother mourneth,  
Singing as her wheel she turneth:  
Come, soft slumber, balmily!  
1811.

10

TO A LADY<sup>1</sup>

OFFENDED BY A SPORTIVE OBSERVATION  
THAT WOMEN HAVE NO SOULS

NAY, dearest Anna! why so grave?  
I said, you had no soul, 'tis true!  
For what you are, you cannot have:  
'Tis I, that have one since I first had you!

? 1811.

REASON FOR LOVE'S BLINDNESS<sup>2</sup>

I HAVE heard of reasons manifold  
Why Love must needs be blind,  
But this the best of all I hold—  
His eyes are in his mind.

What outward form and feature are  
He guesseth but in part;  
But that within is good and fair  
He seeth with the heart.

? 1811.

5

and Child in the small public house of a Catholic Village, with the following beautiful Latin lines under it, which I transcribed. They may be easily adapted to the air of the famous Sicilian Hymn, *Adeste fideles, laeti triumphantes*, by the omission of a few notes.' First collected in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817: included in 1828, 1829, and 1834.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Omniana* (1812), i. 238; 'as a playful illustration of the distinction between *To have* and *to be*.' First collected in 1828: included in 1829 and 1834.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1828: included in 1829 and 1834.

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*To a Lady, &c.*—In line 3 'are', 'have', and in line 4 'have', 'you', are italicized in all editions except 1834.

*Reason for, &c.*—Title] In 1828, 1829, 1834 these stanzas are printed without a title, but are divided by a space from *Lines to a Lady*. The title appears first in 1893.

THE SUICIDE'S ARGUMENT<sup>1</sup>

ERE the birth of my life, if I wished it or no,  
 No question was asked me—it could not be so!  
 If the life was the question, a thing sent to try,  
 And to live on be Yes; what can No be? to die.

## NATURE'S ANSWER

Is't returned, as 'twas sent? Is't no worse for the wear? 5  
 Think first, what you are! Call to mind what you were!  
 I gave you innocence, I gave you hope,  
 Gave health, and genius, and an ample scope.  
 Return you me guilt, lethargy, despair?  
 Make out the invent'ry; inspect, compare! 10  
 Then die—if die you dare!

1811.

TIME, REAL AND IMAGINARY<sup>2</sup>

## AN ALLEGORY

On the wide level of a mountain's head,  
 (I knew not where, but 'twas some faery place)

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1828: included in 1829 and 1834. In a Notebook of (?) 1811 these lines are preceded by the following couplet:—

Complained of, complaining, there shov'd and here shoving,  
 Every one blaming me, ne'er a one loving.

<sup>2</sup> First published in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817, in the preliminary matter, p. v: included in 1828, 1829, and 1834. In the 'Preface' to *Sibylline Leaves*, p. iii, an apology is offered for its insertion on the plea that it was a 'school boy poem' added 'at the request of the friends of my youth'. The title is explained as follows:—'By imaginary Time, I meant the state of a school boy's mind when on his return to school he projects his being in his day dreams, and lives in his next holidays, six months hence; and this I contrasted with real Time.' In a Notebook of (?) 1811 there is an attempt to analyse and illustrate the 'sense of Time', which appears to have been written before the lines as published in *Sibylline Leaves* took shape: 'How marked the contrast between troubled manhood and joyously-active youth in the sense of time! To the former, time like the sun in an empty sky is never seen to move, but only to have moved. There, there it was, and now 'tis here, now distant! yet all a blank between.'

---

4 Yes] YES 1828, 1829.      6 are] ARE 1828, 1829.      were] WERE 1828, 1829.

Their pinions, ostrich-like, for sails out-spread,  
 Two lovely children run an endless race,  
     A sister and a brother!  
     This far outstripp'd the other;  
 Yet ever runs she with reverted face,  
 And looks and listens for the boy behind:  
     For he, alas! is blind!  
 O'er rough and smooth with even step he passed,     10  
 And knows not whether he be first or last.

? 1812.

### AN INVOCATION<sup>1</sup>

FROM *REMORSE*

[Act III, Scene i. ll. 69-82.]

HEAR, sweet Spirit, hear the spell,  
 Lest a blacker charm compel!  
 So shall the midnight breezes swell  
 With thy deep long-lingered knell.

And at evening evermore,     5  
 In a chapel on the shore,  
 Shall the chaunter, sad and saintly,  
 Yellow tapers burning faintly,  
 Doleful masses chaunt for thee,  
     Miserere Domine!     10

Hush! the cadence dies away  
 On the quiet moonlight sea:  
 The boatmen rest their oars and say,  
     Miserere Domine!

1812.

To the latter it is as the full moon in a fine breezy October night, driving on amid clouds of all shapes and hues, and kindling shifting colours, like an ostrich in its speed, and yet seems not to have moved at all. This I feel to be a just image of time real and time as felt, in two different states of being. The title of the poem therefore (for poem it ought to be) should be time real and time felt (in the sense of time) in active youth, or activity with hope and fullness of aim in any period, and in despondent, objectless manhood—time objective and subjective.' *Anima Poetae*, 1895, pp. 241-2.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Remorse*, 1813. First collected, 1844.

*An Invocation—7 chaunter] chaunters 1813, 1828, 1829, 1898.     12 quiet]*  
*yellow 1813, 1828, 1829.*

THE NIGHT-SCENE<sup>1</sup>

A DRAMATIC FRAGMENT

*Sandoval.* You loved the daughter of Don Manrique?*Earl Henry.*

Loved?

*Sand.* Did you not say you wooed her?*Earl H.*

Once I loved

Her whom I dared not woo!

*Sand.*

And wooed, perchance,

One whom you loved not!

*Earl H.*

Oh! I were most base,

Not loving Oropeza. True, I wooed her,

5

Hoping to heal a deeper wound; but she

Met my advances with impassioned pride,

That kindled love with love. And when her sire,

Who in his dream of hope already grasped

The golden circlet in his hand, rejected

10

My suit with insult, and in memory

Of ancient feuds poured curses on my head,

Her blessings overtook and baffled them!

But thou art stern, and with unkindly countenance

Art inly reasoning whilst thou listenest to me.

15

*Sand.* Anxiously, Henry! reasoning anxiously.

But Oropeza—

*Earl H.* Blessings gather round her!

Within this wood there winds a secret passage,

Beneath the walls, which opens out at length

Into the gloomiest covert of the garden.—

20

The night ere my departure to the army,

She, nothing trembling, led me through that gloom,

And to that covert by a silent stream,

Which, with one star reflected near its marge,

Was the sole object visible around me.

25

No leaflet stirred; the air was almost sultry;

So deep, so dark, so close, the umbrage o'er us!

<sup>1</sup> First published in its present state in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817: included in 1828, 1829, and 1834. For an earlier draft, forming part of an 'Historic Drama in Five Acts' (unfinished) entitled *The Triumph of Loyalty*, 1801, vide Appendices of this edition. A prose sketch without title or heading is contained in one of Coleridge's earliest notebooks.

14 unkindly] unkindling 1893. 23 And to the covert by that silent stream *S. L.*, corrected in *Errata*, p. [xi]. 24 near] o'er *S. L.*, corrected in *Errata*, p. [xi].

No leaflet stirred ;—yet pleasure hung upon  
The gloom and stillness of the balmy night-air.  
A little further on an arbour stood,  
Fragrant with flowering trees—I well remember  
What an uncertain glimmer in the darkness  
Their snow-white blossoms made—thither she led me,  
To that sweet bower! Then Oropeza trembled—  
I heard her heart beat—if 'twere not my own.

30

*Sand.* A rude and searing note, my friend!

*Earl H.* Oh! no!

I have small memory of aught but pleasure.  
The inquietudes of fear, like lesser streams  
Still flowing, still were lost in those of love:  
So love grew mightier from the fear, and Nature,  
Fleeing from Pain, sheltered herself in Joy.

40

The stars above our heads were dim and steady,  
Like eyes suffused with rapture. Life was in us:  
We were all life, each atom of our frames  
A living soul—I vowed to die for her:

45

With the faint voice of one who, having spoken,  
Relapses into blessedness, I vowed it:  
That solemn vow, a whisper scarcely heard,  
A murmur breathed against a lady's ear.

Oh! there is joy above the name of pleasure.

50

Deep self-possession, an intense repose.

*Sand.* (*with a sarcastic smile*). No other than as eastern  
sages paint,  
The God, who floats upon a Lotos leaf,  
Dreams for a thousand ages; then awaking,  
Creates a world, and smiling at the bubble,

55

Relapses into bliss.

*Earl H.* Ah! was that bliss  
Feared as an alien, and too vast for man?  
For suddenly, impatient of its silence,  
Did Oropeza, starting, grasp my forehead.  
I caught her arms; the veins were swelling on them.

60

Through the dark bower she sent a hollow voice;—  
'Oh! what if all betray me? what if thou?'

I swore, and with an inward thought that seemed  
The purpose and the substance of my being,  
I swore to her, that were she red with guilt,  
I would exchange my unblenched state with hers.—  
Friend! by that winding passage, to that bower  
I now will go—all objects there will teach me

65

Unwavering love, and singleness of heart.  
 Go, Sandoval ! I am prepared to meet her—  
 Say nothing of me—I myself will seek her—  
 Nay, leave me, friend ! I cannot bear the torment  
 And keen inquiry of that scanning eye.—

[*Earl Henry retires into the wood.*

*Sand. (alone).* O Henry ! always striv'st thou to be great  
 By thine own act—yet art thou never great  
 But by the inspiration of great passion. 75  
 The whirl-blast comes, the desert-sands rise up  
 And shape themselves ; from Earth to Heaven they stand,  
 As though they were the pillars of a temple,  
 Built by Omnipotence in its own honour !  
 But the blast pauses, and their shaping spirit  
 Is fled : the mighty columns were but sand,  
 And lazy snakes trail o'er the level ruins ! 80

1813.

### A HYMN <sup>1</sup>

My Maker ! of thy power the trace  
 In every creature's form and face  
 The wond'ring soul surveys :  
 Thy wisdom, infinite above  
 Seraphic thought, a Father's love  
 As infinite displays ! 5

From all that meets or eye or ear,  
 There falls a genial holy fear  
 Which, like the heavy dew of morn,  
 Refreshes while it bows the heart forlorn ! 10

Great God ! thy works how wondrous fair !  
 Yet sinful man didst thou declare  
 The whole Earth's voice and mind !

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Poems*, 1852. The MS. was placed in the hands of the Editors by J. W. Wilkins, Esq., of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. ‘The accompanying autograph,’ writes Mr. Wilkins, ‘dated 1814, and addressed to Mrs. Hood of Brunswick Square, was given not later than the year 1817 to a relative of my own who was then residing at Clifton (and was, at the time at which it passed into his hands, an attendant on Mr. Coleridge’s lectures, which were in course of delivery at that place), either by the lady to whom it is addressed, or by some other friend of Mr. Coleridge.’ 1852, Notes, p. 385.

Lord, ev'n as Thou all-present art,  
O may we still with heedful heart      15  
    Thy presence know and find !  
Then, come what will, of weal or woe,  
Joy's bosom-spring shall steady flow ;  
For though 'tis Heaven THYSELF to see,  
Where but thy *Shadow* falls, Grief cannot be !—      20

1814.

TO A LADY<sup>1</sup>

WITH FALCONER'S SHIPWRECK

AH ! not by Cam or Isis, famous streams,  
    In archéd groves, the youthful poet's choice ;  
Nor while half-listening, 'mid delicious dreams,  
    To harp and song from lady's hand and voice ;

Not yet while gazing in sublimer mood      5  
    On cliff, or cataract, in Alpine dell ;  
Nor in dim cave with bladdery sea-weed strewed,  
    Framing wild fancies to the ocean's swell ;

Our sea-bard sang this song ! which still he sings,  
    And sings for thee, sweet friend ! Hark, Pity, hark !  
Now mounts, now totters on the tempest's wings,      11  
    Now groans, and shivers, the replunging bark !

'Cling to the shrouds !' In vain ! The breakers roar—  
    Death shrieks ! With two alone of all his clan  
Forlorn the poet paced the Grecian shore,      15  
    No classic roamer, but a shipwrecked man !

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817 : included in 1828, 1829, and 1834. A different or emended version headed 'Written in a Blank Leaf of Faulkner's Shipwreck, presented by a friend to Miss K.', was published in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* of February 21, 1818. [See Note by G. E. Weare, Weston-super-Mare, January, 1905.]

Title] To a Lady With Falkner's 'Shipwreck' S. L.

2 archéd] cloyst'ring F. F.    3 'mid] midst F. F.    4 lady's] woman's  
F. F.    5 sublimer] diviner F. F.    6 On torrent falls, on woody  
mountain dell F. F.    7 sea-weed] sea-weeds F. F.    8 Attuning  
wild tales to the ocean's swell F. F.    9 this] this F. F.    10 thee]  
thee F. F.    11 It mounts, it totters F. F.    12 It groans, it quivers F. F.  
14 of] and F. F.    15 Forlorn the] The toil-worn F. F.

Say then, what muse inspired these genial strains,  
 And lit his spirit to so bright a flame?  
 The elevating thought of suffered pains,  
 Which gentle hearts shall mourn ; but chief, the name <sup>20</sup>  
 Of gratitude ! remembrances of friend,  
 Or absent or no more ! shades of the Past,  
 Which Love makes substance ! Hence to thee I send,  
 O dear as long as life and memory last !

I send with deep regards of heart and head, <sup>25</sup>  
 Sweet maid, for friendship formed ! this work to thee :  
 And thou, the while thou canst not choose but shed  
 A tear for Falconer, wilt remember me.

? 1814.

### HUMAN LIFE <sup>1</sup>

#### ON THE DENIAL OF IMMORTALITY

If dead, we cease to be ; if total gloom  
 Swallow up life's brief flash for aye, we fare  
 As summer-gusts, of sudden birth and doom,  
 Whose sound and motion not alone declare,  
 But are their whole of being ! If the breath <sup>2</sup>   
 Be Life itself, and not its task and tent,  
 If even a soul like Milton's can know death ;  
 O Man ! thou vessel purposeless, unmeant,  
 Yet drone-hive strange of phantom purposes !

Surplus of Nature's dread activity, <sup>10</sup>  
 Which, as she gazed on some nigh-finished vase,  
 Retreating slow, with meditative pause,  
 She formed with restless hands unconsciously.  
 Blank accident ! nothing's anomaly !

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Sibylline Leaves*, 1817 : included in 1828, 1829, and 1834.

<sup>2</sup> Halitus = anima animae tabernaculum MS. Note (? S. T. C.)

17-20 Say then what power evoked such genial strains  
 And beckon'd godlike to the trembling Muse ?  
 The thought not pleasureless of suffer'd pains  
 But chiefly friendship's voice, her holy dues. F. F.

21 Demanding dear remembrances of friend F. F.      22 Which  
 love makes real ! Thence F. F.      24 life] love F. F.      26 Sweet Maid  
 for friendship framed this song to thee F. F.      28 Falconer] FALKNER  
*S. L.* : Faulkner F. F.      me] ME *S. L.*, 1828, 1829.  
 5 are] are *S. L.*, 1828, 1829.      whole] whole *S. L.*, 1828, 1829.

If rootless thus, thus substanceless thy state,  
Go, weigh thy dreams, and be thy hopes, thy fears,  
The counter-weights!—Thy laughter and thy tears  
Mean but themselves, each fittest to create  
And to repay the other! Why rejoices  
Thy heart with hollow joy for hollow good?  
Why cowl thy face beneath the mourner's hood?  
Why waste thy sighs, and thy lamenting voices,  
Image of Image, Ghost of Ghostly Elf,  
That such a thing as thou feel'st warm or cold?  
Yet what and whence thy gain, if thou withhold  
These costless shadows of thy shadowy self?  
Be sad! be glad! be neither! seek, or shun!  
Thou hast no reason why! Thou canst have none;  
Thy being's being is contradiction.

? 1815.

15

20

25

### SONG<sup>1</sup>

FROM *ZAPOLYA*

A SUNNY shaft did I behold,  
From sky to earth it slanted:  
And poised therein a bird so bold—  
Sweet bird, thou wert enchanted!

He sank, he rose, he twinkled, he trolled  
Within that shaft of sunny mist;  
His eyes of fire, his beak of gold,  
All else of amethyst!

And thus he sang: ‘Adieu! adieu!  
Love's dreams prove seldom true.

5

10

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Zapolya*, 1817 (Act II, Scene i, ll. 65–80). First collected in 1844. Two MSS. are extant, one in the possession of Mr. John Murray (*MS. M.*), and a second in the possession of the Editor (*MS. S. T. C.*). For a prose version of Glycine's Song, probably a translation from the German, vide Appendices of this edition.

19 the] each 1887–80, 1893.

Song—Title] Sung by Glycine in *Zapolya* 1893: Glycine's Song *MS. M.*

1 A pillar grey did I behold *MS. S. T. C.* 4 A faery Bird that  
chanted *MS. S. T. C.* 6 sunny] shiny *MS. S. T. C.*

The blossoms they make no delay:  
 The sparkling dew-drops will not stay.  
 Sweet month of May,  
 We must away;  
 Far, far away!  
 To-day! to-day!

1815.

15

HUNTING SONG<sup>1</sup>

FROM ZAPOLYA

Up, up! ye dames, and lasses gay!  
 To the meadows trip away.  
 'Tis you must tend the flocks this morn,  
 And scare the small birds from the corn.

Not a soul at home may stay:

For the shepherds must go

With lance and bow

To hunt the wolf in the woods to-day.

Leave the hearth and leave the house

To the cricket and the mouse:

10

Find grannam out a sunny seat.

With babe and lambkin at her feet.

Not a soul at home may stay:

For the shepherds must go

With lance and bow

15 To hunt the wolf in the woods to-day.

1815.

FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY<sup>2</sup>

FROM THE ITALIAN OF GUARINI

## FAITH

LET those whose low delights to Earth are given  
 Chaunt forth their earthly Loves! but we  
 Must make an holier minstrelsy,  
 And, heavenly-born, will sing the Things of Heaven.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Zapolya* (Act iv, Scene ii, ll. 56-71). First collected, 1844.

<sup>2</sup> From a hitherto unpublished MS. For the original *Dialogo: Fide, Speranza, Fide*, included in the 'Madrigali...' del Signor Cavalier Battista Guarini, 1663, vide Appendices of this edition. The translation in Coleridge's handwriting is preceded by another version transcribed and, possibly, composed by Hartley Coleridge.

## CHARITY

But who for us the listening Heart shall gain ?  
 Inaudible as of the sphere  
 Our music dies upon the ear,  
 Enchanted with the mortal Syren's strain.

5

## HOPE

Yet let our choral songs abound !  
 Th' inspiring Power, its living Source,  
 May flow with them and give them force,  
 If, elsewhere all unheard, in Heaven they sound.

10

## ALL

Aid thou our voice, Great Spirit ! thou whose flame  
 Kindled the Songster sweet of Israel,  
 Who made so high to swell  
 Beyond a mortal strain thy glorious Name.

15

## CHARITY AND FAITH

Though rapt to Heaven, our mission and our care  
 Is still to sojourn on the Earth,  
 To shape, to soothe, Man's second Birth,  
 And re-ascend to Heaven, Heaven's prodigal Heir !

20

## CHARITY

What is Man's soul of Love deprived ?

## HOPE. FAITH

It like a Harp untunéd is,  
 That sounds, indeed, but sounds amiss.

## CHARITY. HOPE

From holy Love all good gifts are derived.

## FAITH

But 'tis time that every nation  
 Should hear how loftily we sing.

25

## FAITH. HOPE. CHARITY

See, O World, see thy salvation !  
 Let the Heavens with praises ring.  
 Who would have a Throne above,  
 Let him hope, believe and love ;  
 And whoso loves no earthly song,  
 But does for heavenly music long,  
 Faith, Hope, and Charity for him,  
 Shall sing like wingéd Cherubim.

30

TO NATURE<sup>1</sup>

IT may indeed be phantasy, when I  
 Essay to draw from all created things  
 Deep, heartfelt, inward joy that closely clings ;  
 And trace in leaves and flowers that round me lie  
 Lessons of love and earnest piety.

5

So let it be ; and if the wide world rings  
 In mock of this belief, it brings  
 Nor fear, nor grief, nor vain perplexity.  
 So will I build my altar in the fields,  
 And the blue sky my fretted dome shall be,      10  
 And the sweet fragrance that the wild flower yields  
 Shall be the incense I will yield to Thee,  
 Thee only God ! and thou shalt not despise  
 Even me, the priest of this poor sacrifice.

?1820.

LIMBO<sup>2</sup>

\*     \*     \*     \*     \*

THE sole true Something—This ! In Limbo's Den  
 It frightens Ghosts, as here Ghosts frighten men.  
 Thence cross'd unseiz'd—and shall some fated hour  
 Be pulveris'd by Demogorgon's power,

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Letters, Conversations and Recollections* by S. T. Coleridge, 1836, i. 144. First collected in *Poems*, 1863, Appendix, p. 391.

<sup>2</sup> First published, in its present shape, from an original MS. in 1893 (inscribed in a notebook). Lines 6-10 ('they shrink ... negative eye') were first printed in *The Friend* (1818, iii. 215), and included as a separate fragment with the title 'Moles' in *P. W.*, 1834, i. 259. Lines 11-38 were first printed with the title 'Limbo' in *P. W.*, 1834, i. 272-3. The lines as quoted in *The Friend* were directed against 'the partisans of a crass and sensual materialism, the advocates of the *Nihil nisi ab extra*'. The following variants, now first printed, are from a second MS. (MS. S. T. C.) in the possession of Miss Edith Coleridge. In the notebook *Limbo* is followed by the lines entitled *Ne Plus Ultra*, vide post, p. 431.

[*Limbo*—Title] Another Fragment, but in a very different style, from a Dream of Purgatory, alias *Limbus* MS. S. T. C. [Note.—In this MS. *Phantom*, 'All Look and Likeness,' &c. precedes *Limbo*.]

Between 2-3

For skimming in the wake it mock'd the care  
 Of the old Boat-God for his farthing fare ;  
 Tho' Irus' Ghost itself he ne'er frown'd blacker on  
 The skin and skin-pent Druggist cross'd the Acheron,

And given as poison to annihilate souls—  
 Even now it shrinks them—they shrink in as Moles  
 (Nature's mute monks, live mandrakes of the ground)  
 Creep back from Light—then listen for its sound;—  
 See but to dread, and dread they know not why—  
 The natural alien of their negative eye.

5

"Tis a strange place, this Limbo!—not a Place,  
 Yet name it so;—where Time and weary Space  
 Fettered from flight, with night-mare sense of fleeing,  
 Strive for their last crepuscular half-being;—  
 Lank Space, and scytheless Time with branny hands      15  
 Barren and soundless as the measuring sands,  
 Not mark'd by flit of Shades,—unmeaning they  
 As moonlight on the dial of the day!  
 But that is lovely—looks like Human Time,—  
 An Old Man with a steady look sublime,      20  
 That stops his earthly task to watch the skies;  
 But he is blind—a Statue hath such eyes;—  
 Yet having moonward turn'd his face by chance,  
 Gazes the orb with moon-like countenance,  
 With scant white hairs, with foretop bald and high,      25  
 He gazes still,—his eyeless face all eye;—  
 As 'twere an organ full of silent sight,  
 His whole face seemeth to rejoice in light!  
 Lip touching lip, all moveless, bust and limb—  
 He seems to gaze at that which seems to gaze on him!      30

No such sweet sights doth Limbo den immure,  
 Wall'd round, and made a spirit-jail secure,

Styx, and with Periphlegeton Coeytus,—  
 (The very names, methinks, might frighten us)  
 Unchang'd it cross'd—and shall some fated hour MS. Notebook.

[Coleridge marks these lines as 'a specimen of the Sublime dashed to pieces by cutting too close with the fiery Four-in-Hand round the corner of Nonsense.]

6 They, like moles *Friend, 1818.*      8 Shrink from the light, then  
 listen for a sound *Friend, 1818.*      12 so] such MS. S. T. C.      16 the]  
 his MS. S. T. C.      17 Mark'd but by Flit MS. S. T. C.      30 at] on  
 MS. S. T. C.

31 foll. In one sole Outlet yawns the Phantom Wall,  
 And through this grim road to [a] worser thrall  
 Oft homeward scouring from a sick Child's dream  
 Old Mother Brownrigg shoots upon a scream;

By the mere horror of blank Naught-at-all,  
 Whose circumambience doth these ghosts enthral.  
 A lurid thought is growthless, dull Privation,  
 Yet that is but a Purgatory curse ;—  
 Hell knows a fear far worse,  
 A fear—a future state ;—’tis positive Negation !

1817.

*NE PLUS ULTRA*<sup>1</sup>

SOLE Positive of Night !  
 Antipathist of Light !  
 Fate’s only essence ! primal scorpion rod—  
 The one permitted opposite of God !—  
 Condenséd blackness and abysmal storm  
 Compacted to one sceptre  
 Arms the Grasp enorm—  
 The Interceptor—  
 The Substance that still casts the shadow Death !—  
 The Dragon foul and fell—  
 The unrevealable,  
 And hidden one, whose breath  
 Gives wind and fuel to the fires of Hell !  
 Ah ! sole despair  
 Of both th’ eternities in Heaven !  
 Sole interdict of all-bedewing prayer,  
 The all-compassionate !  
 Save to the Lampads Seven  
 Reveal’d to none of all th’ Angelic State,  
 Save to the Lampads Seven,  
 That watch the throne of Heaven !

?1826.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. The MS., which is inscribed in a notebook, is immediately preceded by that of the first draft of *Limbo* (*ante*, p. 429). The so-called ‘Ne Plus Ultra’ may have been intended to illustrate a similar paradox—the ‘positivity of negation’. No date can be assigned to either of these metaphysical conceits, but there can be little doubt that they were ‘written in later life’.

And turning back her Face with hideous Leer,  
 Leaves Sentry there *Intolerable Fear* !  
 A horrid thought is growthless dull Negation :  
 Yet that is but a Purgatory Curse,  
 SHE knows a fear far worse  
 Flee, lest thou hear its Name ! Flee, rash Imagination !

\* \* \* \* \*

S. T. Coleridge, 1st Oct. 1827, Grove, Highgate.

THE KNIGHT'S TOMB<sup>1</sup>

WHERE is the grave of Sir Arthur O'Kellyn?  
 Where may the grave of that good man be?—  
 By the side of a spring, on the breast of Helvellyn,  
 Under the twigs of a young birch tree!  
 The oak that in summer was sweet to hear,      5  
 And rustled its leaves in the fall of the year,  
 And whistled and roared in the winter alone,  
 Is gone,—and the birch in its stead is grown.—  
 The Knight's bones are dust,  
 And his good sword rust;—      10  
 His soul is with the saints, I trust.

? 1817.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *P. W.*, 1834. Gillman (*Life*, p. 276) says that the lines were composed ‘as an experiment for a metre’, and repeated by the author to ‘a mutual friend’, who ‘spoke of his visit to Highgate’ and repeated them to Scott on the following day. The last three lines, ‘somewhat altered’, are quoted in *Ivanhoe*, chapter viii, and again in *Castle Dangerous*, chapter ix. They run thus:—

The knights are dust,  
 And their good swords are rust;—  
 Their souls are with the saints, we trust.

Gillman says that the *Ivanhoe* quotation convinced Coleridge that Scott was the author of the *Waverley Novels*. In the Appendix to the ‘Notes’ to *Castle Dangerous* (1834), which was edited and partly drawn up by Lockhart, the poem is quoted in full, with a prefatory note (“The author has somewhat altered part of a beautiful unpublished fragment of Coleridge”).

Where is the grave of Sir Arthur Orellan,—  
 Where may the grave of that good knight be?  
 By the marge of a brook, on the slope of Helvellyn,  
 Under the boughs of a young birch-tree.  
 The Oak that in summer was pleasant to hear,  
 That rustled in autumn all wither'd and sear,  
 That whistled and groan'd thro' the winter alone,  
 He hath gone, and a birch in his place is grown.  
 The knight's bones are dust,  
 His good sword is rust;  
 His spirit is with the saints, we trust.

This version must have been transcribed from a MS. in Lockhart’s possession, and represents a first draft of the lines as published in 1834. These lines are, no doubt, an ‘experiment for a metre’. The upward movement (ll. 1–7) is daetylic: the fall (ll. 8–11) is almost, if not altogether, spondaic. The whole forms a complete stanza, or metrical scheme, which may be compared with ll. 264–78 of the First Part of *Christabel*. Mrs. H. N. Coleridge, who must have been familiar with Gillman’s story, dates the *Knight’s Tomb* 1802.

ON DONNE'S POETRY<sup>1</sup>

WITH Donne, whose muse on dromedary trots,  
Wreathè iron pokers into true-love knots ;  
Rhyme's sturdy cripple, fancy's maze and clue,  
Wit's forge and fire-blast, meaning's press and screw.

? 1818.

ISRAEL'S LAMENT<sup>2</sup>

'A Hebrew Dirge, chaunted in the Great Synagogue, St. James's Place, Aldgate, on the day of the Funeral of her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte. By Hyman Hurwitz, Master of the Hebrew Academy, Highgate : with a Translation in English Verse, by S. T. Coleridge, Esq., 1817.'

MOURN, Israel ! Sons of Israel, mourn !  
Give utterance to the inward throë !  
As wails, of her first love forlorn,  
The Virgin clad in robes of woe.

Mourn the young Mother, snatch'd away  
From Light and Life's ascending Sun !  
Mourn for the Babe, Death's voiceless prey,  
Earn'd by long pangs and lost ere won.

Mourn the bright Rose that bloom'd and went,  
Ere half disclosed its vernal hue !  
Mourn the green Bud, so rudely rent,  
It brake the stem on which it grew.

Mourn for the universal woe  
With solemn dirge and fault'ring tongue :  
For England's Lady is laid low,  
So dear, so lovely, and so young !

5

10

15

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 148, from 'notes written by Mr. Coleridge in a volume of "Chalmers's Poets"'. Line 2 finds a place in Hartley Coleridge's couplets on Donne which are written on the fly-leaves and covers of his copy of Anderson's *British Poets*. In the original MS. it is enclosed in quotation marks. First collected in *P. W.*, 1885, ii. 409.

<sup>2</sup> First published, together with the Hebrew, as an octavo pamphlet (pp. 13) in 1817. An abbreviated version was included in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 57-8 and in the Appendix to *Poems*, 1863. The *Lament* as a whole was first collected in *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80, ii. 282-5.

Israel's Lament—*Title*] Israel's Lament on the death of the Princess Charlotte of Wales. From the Hebrew of Hyman Hurwitz *L. R.*

The blossoms on her Tree of Life  
 Shone with the dews of recent bliss :  
 Transplanted in that deadly strife,  
 She plucks its fruits in Paradise.

20

Mourn for the widow'd Lord in chief,  
 Who wails and will not solaced be !  
 Mourn for the childless Father's grief,  
 The wedded Lover's agony !

Mourn for the Prince, who rose at morn  
 To seek and bless the firstling bud  
 Of his own Rose, and found the thorn,  
 Its point bedew'd with tears of blood.

25

O press again that murmuring string !  
 Again bewail that princely Sire !  
 A destined Queen, a future King,  
 He mourns on one funereal pyre.

30

Mourn for Britannia's hopes decay'd,  
 Her daughters wail their dear defence ;  
 Their fair example, prostrate laid,  
 Chaste Love and fervid Innocence.

35

While Grief in song shall seek repose,  
 We will take up a Mourning yearly :  
 To wail the blow that crush'd the Rose,  
 So dearly priz'd and lov'd so dearly.

40

Long as the fount of Song o'erflows  
 Will I the yearly dirge renew :  
 Mourn for the firstling of the Rose,  
 That snapt the stem on which it grew.

The proud shall pass, forgot ; the chill,  
 Damp, trickling Vault their only mourner !  
 Not so the regal Rose, that still  
 Clung to the breast which first had worn her !

45

O thou, who mark'st the Mourner's path  
 To sad Jeshurun's Sons attend !  
 Amid the Lightnings of thy Wrath  
 The showers of Consolation send !

50

<sup>19</sup> Transplanted] Translated *L. R.*, 1863.      <sup>21-4</sup> om. *L. R.*, 1863.  
<sup>29-32</sup> om. *L. R.*, 1863.    <sup>49-56</sup> om. *L. R.*, 1863.    <sup>49</sup> Mourner's] Mourners'  
*L. R.*, 1863.

Jehovah frowns ! the Islands bow !  
 And Prince and People kiss the Rod !—  
 Their dread chastising Judge wert thou !  
 Be thou their Comforter, O God !

1817.

55

FANCY IN NUBIBUS<sup>1</sup>

## OR THE POET IN THE CLOUDS

O ! it is pleasant, with a heart at ease,  
 Just after sunset, or by moonlight skies,  
 To make the shifting clouds be what you please,  
 Or let the easily persuaded eyes  
 Own each quaint likeness issuing from the mould       5  
 Of a friend's fancy ; or with head bent low  
 And cheek aslant see rivers flow of gold  
 'Twixt crimson banks ; and then, a traveller, go  
 From mount to mount through Cloudland, gorgeous land !  
 Or list'ning to the tide, with closéd sight,       10  
 Be that blind bard, who on the Chian strand  
 By those deep sounds possessed with inward light,  
 Beheld the Iliad and the Odyssee  
 Rise to the swelling of the voiceful sea.

1817.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* for February 7, 1818 : and afterwards in *Blackwood's Magazine* for November, 1819. First collected in 1828 : included in 1829 and 1834. A MS. in the possession of Major Butterworth of Carlisle is signed 'S. T. Coleridge, Little Hampton, Oct. 1818'. In a letter to Coleridge dated Jan. 10, 1820, Lamb asks, 'Who put your marine sonnet [i. e. A Sonnet written on the Sea Coast, vide Title] . . . in *Blackwood*?'. F. Freiligrath in his Introduction to the Tauchnitz edition says that the last five lines are borrowed from Stolberg's *An das Meer* ; vide Appendices of this edition.

*Fancy, &c.—Title]* Fancy, &c. A Sonnet Composed by the Seaside, October 1817. *F. F. : Fancy in Nubibus.* A Sonnet, composed on the Sea Coast 1819.

<sup>4</sup> let] bid 1819.      <sup>5</sup> Own] Owe F. F. 1818.      quaint] strange 1819.  
<sup>6</sup> head] heart MS. : head bow'd low 1819.      <sup>9</sup> through] o'er 1819.

THE TEARS OF A GRATEFUL PEOPLE<sup>1</sup>

A Hebrew Dirge and Hymn, chaunted in the Great Synagogue, St. James' pl. Aldgate, on the Day of the Funeral of King George III. of blessed memory. By Hyman Hurwitz of Highgate, Translated by a Friend.

*Dirge*

OPPRESS'D, confused, with grief and pain,  
And inly shrinking from the blow,  
In vain I seek the dirgeful strain,  
The wonted words refuse to flow.

A fear in every face I find,                                   5  
Each voice is that of one who grieves ;  
And all my Soul, to grief resigned,  
Reflects the sorrow it receives.

The Day-Star of our glory sets !  
Our King has breathed his latest breath !                                   10  
Each heart its wonted pulse forgets,  
As if it own'd the pow'r of death.

Our Crown, our heart's Desire is fled !  
Britannia's glory moults its wing !                                   15  
Let us with ashes on our head,  
Raise up a mourning for our King.

Lo ! of his beams the Day-Star shorn,<sup>2</sup>  
Sad gleams the Moon through cloudy veil !  
The Stars are dim ! Our Nobles mourn ;  
The Matrons weep, their Children wail.                                   20

No age records a King so just,  
His virtues numerous as his days ;  
The Lord Jehovah was his trust,  
And truth with mercy ruled his ways.

His Love was bounded by no Clime ;  
Each diverse Race, each distant Clan  
He govern'd by this truth sublime,  
'God only knows the heart—not man.'

<sup>1</sup> First published with the Hebrew in pamphlet form in 1820. First collected in 1893.

<sup>2</sup> The author, in the spirit of Hebrew Poetry, here represents the Crown, the Peerage, and the Commonalty, by the figurative expression of the Sun, Moon, and Stars.

His word appall'd the sons of pride,  
Iniquity far wing'd her way;  
Deceit and fraud were scatter'd wide,  
And truth resum'd her sacred sway.

He sooth'd the wretched, and the prey  
From impious tyranny he tore;  
He stay'd th' Usurper's iron sway,  
And bade the Spoiler waste no more.

Thou too, Jeshurun's Daughter ! thou,  
Th' oppress'd of nations and the scorn !  
Didst hail on his benignant brow  
A safety dawning like the morn.

The scoff of each unfeeling mind,  
Thy doom was hard, and keen thy grief;  
Beneath his throne, peace thou didst find,  
And blest the hand that gave relief.

E'en when a fatal cloud o'erspread  
The moonlight splendour of his sway,  
Yet still the light remain'd, and shed  
Mild radiance on the traveller's way.

But he is gone—the Just ! the Good !  
Nor could a Nation's pray'r delay  
The heavenly meed, that long had stood  
His portion in the realms of day.

Beyond the mighty Isle's extent  
The mightier Nation mourns her Chief:  
Him Judah's Daughter shall lament,  
In tears of fervour, love and grief.

Britannia mourns in silent grief;  
Her heart a prey to inward woe.  
In vain she strives to find relief,  
Her pang so great, so great the blow.

Britannia ! Sister ! woe is me !  
Full fain would I console thy woe.  
But, ah ! how shall I comfort thee,  
Who need the balm I would bestow ?

United then let us repair,  
As round our common Parent's grave ;  
And pouring out our heart in prayer,  
Our heav'nly Father's mercy crave.

Until Jehovah from his throne  
 Shall heed his suffering people's fears;      70  
 Shall turn to song the Mourner's groan,  
 To smiles of joy the Nation's tears.

Praise to the Lord! Loud praises sing!  
 And bless Jehovah's righteous hand!  
 Again he bids a George, our King,      75  
 Dispense his blessings to the Land.

*Hymn*

O thron'd in Heav'n! Sole King of kings,  
 Jehovah! hear thy Children's prayers and sighs!  
 Thou Binder of the broken heart! with wings  
 Of healing on thy people rise!      80

Thy mercies, Lord, are sweet;  
 And Peace and Mercy meet,  
 Before thy Judgment seat:  
 Lord, hear us! we entreat!

When angry clouds thy throne surround,      85  
 E'en from the cloud thou bid'st thy mercy shine:  
 And ere thy righteous vengeance strikes the wound,  
 Thy grace prepares the balm divine!  
 Thy mercies, Lord, are sweet;  
 etc.

The Parent tree thy hand did spare—  
 It fell not till the ripen'd fruit was won:  
 Beneath its shade the Scion flourish'd fair,  
 And for the Sire thou gav'st the Son.  
 etc.

This thy own Vine, which thou didst rear,  
 And train up for us from the royal root,      95  
 Protect, O Lord! and to the Nations near  
 Long let it shelter yield, and fruit.  
 etc.

Lord, comfort thou the royal line:  
 Let Peace and Joy watch round us hand and hand.  
 Our Nobles visit with thy grace divine,      100  
 And banish sorrow from the land!  
 Thy mercies, Lord, are sweet;  
 And Peace and Mercy meet  
 Before thy Judgment seat;  
 Lord, hear us! we entreat!

YOUTH AND AGE<sup>1</sup>

VERSE, a breeze mid blossoms straying,  
Where Hope clung feeding, like a bee—  
Both were mine! Life went a-maying  
With Nature, Hope, and Poesy,  
When I was young!      5

When I was young?—Ah, woful When!  
Ah! for the change 'twixt Now and Then!  
This breathing house not built with hands,  
This body that does me grievous wrong,  
O'er airy cliffs and glittering sands,      10  
How lightly then it flashed along:—  
Like those trim skiffs, unknown of yore,  
On winding lakes and rivers wide,  
That ask no aid of sail or oar,  
That fear no spite of wind or tide!      15

<sup>1</sup> First published in its present shape in 1834. Lines 1–38, with the heading ‘*Youth and Age*’, were first published in the *Literary Souvenir*, 1828, and also in the *Bijou*, 1828: included in 1828, 1829. Lines 39–49 were first published in *Blackwood’s Magazine* for June 1832, entitled ‘*An Old Man’s Sigh*: a Sonnet’, as ‘an out-slough or hypertrophic stanza of a certain poem called “*Youth and Age*”’. Of lines 1–43 three MSS. are extant. (1) A fair copy (*MS. 1*) presented to Derwent Coleridge, and now in the Editor’s possession. In *MS. 1* the poem is divided into three stanzas: (i) lines 1–17; (ii) lines 18–38; (iii) lines 39–43. The watermark of this MS. on a quarto sheet of Bath Post letter-paper is 1822. (2) A rough draft, in a notebook dated Sept. 10, 1823; and (3) a corrected draft of forty-three lines (vide for MSS. 2, 3 Appendices of this edition). A MS. version of *An Old Man’s Sigh*, dated ‘*Grove, Highgate, April 1832*’, was contributed to Miss Rotta Quillinan’s Album; and another version numbering only eight lines was inscribed in an album in 1828 when Coleridge was on his Rhine tour with Wordsworth. After line 42 this version continues:—

As we creep feebly down life’s slope,  
Yet courteous dame, accept this truth,  
Hope leaves us not, but we leave hope,  
And quench the inward light of youth.

T. Colley Grattan’s *Beaten Paths*, 1862, ii. 139.

There can be little doubt that lines 1–43 were composed in 1823, and that the last six lines of the text which form part of *An Old Man’s Sigh* were composed, as an afterthought, in 1832.

<sup>1</sup> Verse, a] Verse is a with the alternative ? Verse a breeze *MS. 1*.  
<sup>2</sup> clung] clings *MS. 1, Bijou*.      6 When I] When I 1828, 1829.      8 This house of clay *MS. 1, Bijou*.      10 O’er hill and dale and sounding sands *MS. 1, Bijou*.      11 then] then 1828, 1829.      12 skiffs] boats *MS. 1, Bijou*.

Nought cared this body for wind or weather  
When Youth and I lived in't together.

Flowers are lovely ; Love is flower-like ;  
Friendship is a sheltering tree ;  
O ! the joys, that came down shower-like,  
Of Friendship, Love, and Liberty,  
Ere I was old !

20

Ere I was old ? Ah woful Ere,  
Which tells me, Youth's no longer here !  
O Youth ! for years so many and sweet,  
'Tis known, that Thou and I were one,  
I'll think it but a fond conceit—  
It cannot be that Thou art gone !  
Thy vesper-bell hath not yet toll'd :—  
And thou wert aye a masker bold !  
What strange disguise hast now put on,  
To make believe, that thou art gone ?  
I see these locks in silvery slips,  
This drooping gait, this altered size :  
But Spring-tide blossoms on thy lips,  
And tears take sunshine from thine eyes !  
Life is but thought: so think I will  
That Youth and I are house-mates still.

25

Dew-drops are the gems of morning,  
But the tears of mournful eve !  
Where no hope is, life's a warning  
That only serves to make us grieve,  
When we are old :

30

That only serves to make us grieve  
With oft and tedious taking-leave,

35

20 came] come *Bijou*.      21 Of Beauty, Truth, and Liberty *MS. 1, Bijou*.  
 23 Ere I] *Ere I 1828, 1829.*    woful] mournful *Literary Souvenir*.    25 many]  
 merry *Bijou*.      27 fond] false *MS. 1, Bijou*.      32 make believe]  
*make believe 1828, 1829.*      34 drooping] dragging *MS. 1, Bijou*.

42-4      That only serves to make me grieve  
Now I am old !

Now I am old,—ah woful Now *MS. 1*.

44-5      In our old age  
Whose bruised wings quarrel with the bars of the still  
narrowing cage. *Inserted in 1832.*

Like some poor nigh-related guest,  
 That may not rudely be dismist ;  
 Yet hath outstay'd his welcome while,  
 And tells the jest without the smile.

1823-1832.

### THE REPROOF AND REPLY<sup>1</sup>

Or, The Flower-Thief's Apology, for a robbery committed in Mr. and Mrs. —'s garden, on Sunday morning, 25th of May, 1823, between the hours of eleven and twelve.

“FIE, Mr. Coleridge!—and can this be you ?  
 Break two commandments? and in church-time too !  
 Have you not heard, or have you heard in vain,  
 The birth-and-parentage-recording strain ?—  
 Confessions shrill, that out-shrill'd mack'rel drown       5  
 Fresh from the drop—the youth not yet cut down—  
 Letter to sweet-heart—the last dying speech—  
 And didn't all this begin in Sabbath-breach ?  
 You, that knew better ! In broad open day,  
 Steal in, steal out, and steal our flowers away ?       10  
 What could possess you ? Ah ! sweet youth, I fear  
 The chap with horns and tail was at your ear !”

Such sounds of late, accusing fancy brought  
 From fair Chisholm to the Poet's thought.  
 Now hear the meek Parnassian youth's reply :—       15  
 A bow—a pleading look—a downcast eye,—  
 And then :

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Friendship's Offering* for 1834, as the first of four ‘Lightheartednesses in Rhyme’. A motto was prefixed :—‘I expect no sense, worth listening to, from the man who never does talk nonsense.’—*Anon.* In *F.O.*, 1834, Chisholm was printed C— in line 14, C—m in lines 35, 56, and 60, C—m's in line 43. In 1834, 1844 the name was omitted altogether. The text of the present edition follows the MS. First collected in *P.W.*, 1834. A MS. version is in the possession of Miss Edith Coleridge. These lines were included in 1844, but omitted from 1852, 1863, and 1870.

49 Two lines were added in 1832 :—

O might Life cease ! and Selfless Mind,  
 Whose total Being is Act, alone remain behind.

*The Reproof, &c.—Title] The Reproof and Reply (the alternative title is omitted) 1834.*

“Fair dame! a visionary wight,  
 Hard by your hill-side mansion sparkling white,  
 His thoughts all hovering round the Muses’ home,  
 Long hath it been your Poet’s wont to roam,      20  
 And many a morn, on his becharmed sense  
 So rich a stream of music issued thence,  
 He deem’d himself, as it flowed warbling on,  
 Beside the vocal fount of Helicon!  
 But when, as if to settle the concern,      25  
 A Nymph too he beheld, in many a turn,  
 Guiding the sweet rill from its fontal urn,—  
 Say, can you blame?—No! none that saw and heard  
 Could blame a bard, that he thus inly stirr’d;  
 A muse beholding in each fervent trait,      30  
 Took Mary H—— for Polly Hymnia!  
 Or haply as there stood beside the maid  
 One loftier form in sable stole array’d,  
 If with regretful thought he hail’d in *thee*  
 Chisholm, his long-lost friend, Mol Pomene!      35  
 But most of *you*, soft warblings, I complain!  
 ‘Twas ye that from the bee-hive of my brain  
 Did lure the fancies forth, a freakish rout,  
 And witch’d the air with dreams turn’d inside out.

“Thus all conspir’d—each power of eye and ear,      40  
 And this gay month, th’ enchantress of the year,  
 To cheat poor me (no conjuror, God wot!)  
 And Chisholm’s self accomplice in the plot.  
 Can you then wonder if I went astray?  
 Not bards alone, nor lovers mad as they;—      45  
 All Nature *day-dreams* in the month of May.  
 And if I pluck’d ‘each flower that *sweetest* blows,’—  
 Who walks in sleep, needs follow must his *nose*.

Thus, long accustom’d on the twy-fork’d hill,<sup>1</sup>  
 To pluck both flower and floweret at my will;  
 The garden’s maze, like No-man’s-land, I tread,  
 Nor common law, nor statute in my head;  
 For my own proper smell, sight, fancy, feeling,

<sup>1</sup> The English Parnassus is remarkable for its two summits of unequal height, the lower denominated Hampstead, the higher Highgate.

31 Mary H——] Mary —— 1834, 1844.      38 Did lure the] Lured the wild F. O. 1834.

With autoocratic hand at once repealing  
 Five Acts of Parliament 'gainst private stealing !                       55  
 But yet from Chisholm who despairs of grace ?  
 There's no spring-gun or man-trap in *that* face !  
 Let Moses then look black, and Aaron blue,  
 That look as if they had little else to do :  
 For Chisholm speaks, 'Poor youth ! he's but a waif !     60  
 The spoons all right ? the hen and chickens safe ?  
 Well, well, he shall not forfeit our regards—  
 The Eighth Commandment was not made for Bards ! ' ' ' <sup>1</sup>

1823.

FIRST ADVENT OF LOVE <sup>2</sup>

O FAIR is Love's first hope to gentle mind !  
 As Eve's first star thro' fleecy cloudlet peeping ;  
 And sweeter than the gentle south-west wind.  
 O'er willowy meads, and shadow'd waters creeping,  
 And Ceres' golden fields ;—the sultry hind                       5  
 Meets it with brow uplift, and stays his reaping.  
 ?1824.

THE DELINQUENT TRAVELLERS <sup>3</sup>

SOME are home-sick—some two or three,  
 Their third year on the Arctic Sea—

<sup>1</sup> Compare 'The Eighth Commandment was not made for Love', l. 16 of Elegy I of *The Love Elegies of Abel Shufflebottom*, by R. Southey.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1834. In a MS. note, dated September 1827, it is included in 'Relics of my School-boy Muse : i. e. fragments of poems composed before my fifteenth year', *P. W.*, 1852, Notes, p. 379; but in an entry in a notebook dated 1824, Coleridge writes : 'A pretty unintended couplet in the prose of Sidney's *Arcadia* :—

'And, sweeter than a gentle south-west wind  
 O'er flowery fields and shadowed waters creeping  
 In summer's extreme heat.'

The passage which Coleridge versified is to be found in the *Arcadia* :—

'Her breath is more sweet than a gentle south-west wind, which comes creeping over flowing fields and shadowed waters in the heat of summer.'

<sup>3</sup> From an hitherto unpublished MS., formerly in the possession of Coleridge's friend and amanuensis Joseph Henry Green.

Brave Captain Lyon tells us so<sup>1</sup>—  
 Spite of those charming Esquimaux.  
 But O, what scores are sick of Home,  
 Agog for Paris or for Rome!  
 Nay! tho' contented to abide,  
 You should prefer your own fireside;  
 Yet since grim War has ceas'd its madding,  
 And Peace has set John Bull agadding,  
 'Twould such a vulgar taste betray,  
 For very shame you must away!  
 'What? not yet seen the coast of France?  
 The folks will swear, for lack of bail,  
 You've spent your last five years in jail!' 15

Keep moving! Steam, or Gas, or Stage,  
 Hold, cabin, steerage, hencoop's cage—  
 Tour, Journey, Voyage, Lounge, Ride, Walk,  
 Skim, Sketch, Excursion, Travel-talk—  
 For move you must! 'Tis now the rage,  
 The law and fashion of the Age.  
 If you but perch, where Dover tallies,  
 So strangely with the coast of Calais,  
 With a good glass and knowing look.  
 You'll soon get matter for a book! 20  
 Or else, in Gas-car, take your chance  
 Like that adventurous king of France,  
 Who, once, with twenty thousand men  
 Went up—and then came down again;  
 At least, he moved if nothing more:  
 And if there's nought left to explore,  
 Yet while your well-greased wheels keep spinning,  
 The traveller's honoured name you're winning,  
 And, snug as Jonas in the Whale,  
 You may loll back and dream a tale. 25  
 Move, or be moved—there's no protection,  
 Our Mother Earth has ta'en the infection—

<sup>1</sup> *The Private Journal of Captain G. F. Lyon of the Mt. Hecla, during the recent voyage of discovery under Captain Parry*, was published by John Murray in 1824. In a letter dated May, 1823, Lucy Caroline Lamb writes to Murray:—‘If there is yet time, do tell Captain Lyon, that I, and others far better than I am, are enchanted with his book.’ *Memoirs . . . of John Murray*, 1891, i. 145.

(That rogue Copernicus, 'tis said  
 First put the whirring in her head,) 40  
 A planet She, and can't endure  
 T'exist without her annual Tour:  
 The *name* were else a mere misnomer,  
 Since Planet is but Greek for *Roamer*.  
 The atmosphere, too, can do no less  
 Than ventilate her emptiness, 45  
 Bilks turn-pike gates, for no one cares,  
 And gives herself a thousand airs—  
 While streams and shopkeepers, we see,  
 Will have their run toward the sea—  
 And if, meantime, like old King Log, 50  
 Or ass with tether and a clog,  
 Must graze at home! to yawn and bray  
 'I guess we shall have rain to-day!  
 Nor clog nor tether can be worse  
 Than the dead palsy of the purse. 55  
 Money, I've heard a wise man say,  
 Makes herself wings and flys away:  
 Ah! would She take it in her head  
 To make a pair for me instead!  
 At all events, the Fancy's free, 60  
 No traveller so bold as she.  
 From Fear and Poverty released  
 I'll saddle Pegasus, at least,  
 And when she's seated to her mind,  
 I within I can mount behind: 65  
 And since this outward I, you know,  
 Must stay because he cannot go,  
 My fellow-travellers shall be they  
 Who go because they cannot stay—  
 Rogues, rascals, sharpers, blanks and prizes, 70  
 Delinquents of all sorts and sizes,  
 Fraudulent bankrupts, Knights burglarious,  
 And demireps of means precarious—  
 All whom Law thwarted, Arms or Arts,  
 Compel to visit foreign parts, 75  
 All hail! No compliments, I pray,  
 I'll follow where you lead the way!  
 But ere we cross the main once more,  
 Methinks, along my native shore,  
 Dismounting from my steed I'll stray 80

Beneath the cliffs of Dumpton Bay,  
Where, Ramsgate and Broadstairs between,  
Rude caves and grated doors are seen :  
And here I'll watch till break of day,  
(For Fancy in her magic might  
Can turn broad noon to starless night !)  
When lo ! methinks a sudden band  
Of smock-clad smugglers round me stand.  
Denials, oaths, in vain I try,  
At once they gag me for a spy,  
And stow me in the boat hard by.  
Suppose us fairly now afloat,  
Till Boulogne mouth receives our Boat.  
But, bless us ! what a numerous band  
Of cockneys anglicise the strand !  
Delinquent bankrupts, leg-bail'd debtors,  
Some for the news, and some for letters—  
With hungry look and tarnished dress,  
French shrugs and British surliness.  
Sick of the country for their sake  
Of them and France *French* leave I take—  
And lo ! a transport comes in view  
I hear the merry motley crew,  
Well skill'd in pocket to make entry,  
Of Dieman's Land the elected Gentry,  
And founders of Australian Races.—  
The Rogues ! I see it in their faces !  
Receive me, Lads ! I'll go with you,  
Hunt the black swan and kangaroo,  
And that New Holland we'll presume  
Old England with some elbow-room.  
Across the mountains we will roam,  
And each man make himself a home :  
Or, if old habits ne'er forsaking,  
Like clock-work of the Devil's making,  
Ourselves inveterate rogues should be,  
We'll have a virtuous progeny ;  
And on the dunghill of our vices  
Raise human pine-apples and spices.  
Of all the children of John Bull  
With a bold hand shall we pull

<sup>1</sup> A coast village near Ramsgate. Coleridge passed some weeks at Ramsgate in the autumn of 1821.

Who ramble East, West, North and South,  
 With leaky purse and open mouth,  
 In search of varieties exotic  
 The usefulest and most patriotic,  
 And merriest, too, believe me, Sirs !  
 Are your Delinquent Travellers !

125

1824.

WORK WITHOUT HOPE<sup>1</sup>

LINES COMPOSED 21ST FEBRUARY 1825

ALL Nature seems at work. Slugs leave their lair—  
 The bees are stirring—birds are on the wing—<sup>2</sup>  
 And Winter slumbering in the open air,  
 Wears on his smiling face a dream of Spring !  
 And I the while, the sole unbusy thing,  
 Nor honey make, nor pair, nor build, nor sing.

5

Yet well I ken the banks where amaranths blow,  
 Have traced the fount whence streams of nectar flow.  
 Bloom, O ye amaranths! bloom for whom ye may,  
 For me ye bloom not! Glide, rich streams, away!      10  
 With lips unbrightened, wreathless brow, I stroll:  
 And would you learn the spells that drowse my soul?  
 Work without Hope draws nectar in a sieve,  
 And Hope without an object cannot live.

1825.

<sup>1</sup> First printed in the *Bijou* for 1828 : included in 1828, 1829, and 1834. These lines, as published in the *Bijou* for 1828, were an excerpt from an entry in a notebook, dated Feb. 21, 1825. They were preceded by a prose introduction, now for the first time printed, and followed by a metrical interpretation or afterthought which was first published in the Notes to the Edition of 1893. For an exact reproduction of the prose and verse as they appear in the notebook, vide Appendices of this edition.

<sup>2</sup> Compare the last stanza of George Herbert's *Praise* :—

O raise me thus! Poor Bees that work all day,  
 Sting my delay,  
 Who have a work as well as they,  
 And much, much more.

*Work Without Hope—Title]* Lines composed on a day in February. By S. T. Coleridge, Esq. *Bijou* : Lines composed on the 21st of February, 1827 1828, 1829, 1834.

<sup>1</sup> Slugs] Snails erased MS. S. T. C. : Stags 1828, 1829, 1885.

<sup>11</sup> { With unmooth lip and wreathless brow I stroll  
 { With lips unmoisten'd wreathless brow I stroll MS. S. T. C.

*SANCTI DOMINICI PALLIUM<sup>1</sup>*

## A DIALOGUE BETWEEN POET AND FRIEND

FOUND WRITTEN ON THE BLANK LEAF AT THE BEGINNING OF BUTLER'S  
 'BOOK OF THE CHURCH' (1825)

## POET

I NOTE the moods and feelings men betray,  
 And heed them more than aught they do or say ;  
 The lingering ghosts of many a secret deed  
 Still-born or haply strangled in its birth ;  
*These* best reveal the smooth man's inward creed !      5  
*These* mark the spot where lies the treasure—Worth !

Milner, made up of impudence and trick,<sup>2</sup>  
 With cloven tongue prepared to hiss and lick,  
 Rome's Brazen Serpent—boldly dares discuss  
 The roasting of thy heart, O brave John Huss !      10  
 And with grim triumph and a truculent glee<sup>3</sup>  
 Absolves anew the Pope-wrought perfidy,

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Evening Standard*, May 21, 1827. 'The poem signed ΕΣΤΗΣ appeared likewise in the *St. James's Chronicle*.' See Letter of S. T. C. to J. Blanco White, dated Nov. 28, 1827. *Life*, 1845, i. 439, 440. First collected in 1834. I have amended the text of 1834 in lines 7, 17, 34, 39 in accordance with a MS. in the possession of the poet's granddaughter, Miss Edith Coleridge. The poem as published in 1834 and every subsequent edition (except 1907) is meaningless. Southey's *Book of the Church*, 1825, was answered by Charles Butler's *Book of the Roman Catholic Church*, 1825, and in an anonymous pamphlet by the Vicar Apostolic, Dr. John Milner, entitled *Merlin's Strictures*. Southey retaliated in his *Vindiciae Ecclesiae Anglicanae*, 1826. In the latter work he addresses Butler as 'an honourable and courteous opponent'—and contrasts his 'habitual urbanity' with the malignant and scurrilous attacks of that 'ill-mannered man', Dr. Milner. In the 'Dialogue' the poet reminds his 'Friend' Southey that Rome is Rome, a 'brazen serpent', charm she never so wisely. In the *Vindiciae* Southey devotes pp. 470–506 to an excursus on 'The Rosary'—the invention of St. Dominic. Hence the title—'Sancti Dominici Pallium'.

<sup>2</sup> These lines were written before this Prelate's decease. *Standard*, 1827.

<sup>3</sup> Trūcūlēnt : a tribraч as the isochronous substitute for the Trochee —◦. N.B. If our accent, a *quality* of sound were actually equivalent to the *Quantity* in the Greek —◦—, or dactyl —◦◦ at least. But it is not so, accent shortens syllables : thus Spírit, sprite ; Hónęy, mönüy, nöbödy, &c. MS. S. T. C.

*Sancti Dominici Pallium, &c. Title]*—A dialogue written on a Blank Page of Butler's *Book of the Roman Catholic Church*. *Sd. 1827.*

<sup>7</sup> Milner] — 1834, 1852 : Butler 1893.

That made an empire's plighted faith a lie,  
And fix'd a broad stare on the Devil's eye—  
(Pleas'd with the guilt, yet envy-stung at heart  
To stand outmaster'd in his own black art!) 15  
Yet Milner—

## FRIEND

Enough of Milner! we're agreed,  
Who now defends would then have done the deed.  
But who not feels persuasion's gentle sway,  
Who but must meet the proffered hand half way 20  
When courteous Butler—

POET (*aside*)

(Rome's smooth go-between!)

## FRIEND

Laments the advice that soured a milky queen—  
(For 'bloody' all enlightened men confess  
An antiquated error of the press:) 25  
Who rapt by zeal beyond her sex's bounds,  
With actual cautery staunched the Church's wounds!  
And tho' he deems, that with too broad a blur  
We damn the French and Irish massacre,  
Yet *blames* them both—and thinks the Pope *might* err!  
What think you now? Boots it with spear and shield 30  
Against such gentle foes to take the field  
Whose beckoning hands the mild Caduceus wield?

## POET

What think I now? Even what I thought before;—  
What Milner boasts though Butler may deplore,  
Still I repeat, words lead me not astray 35  
When the *shown* feeling points a different way.  
Smooth Butler can say grace at slander's feast,<sup>1</sup>  
And bless each haut-gout cook'd by monk or priest;

<sup>1</sup> 'Smooth Butler.' See the Rev. Blanco White's Letter to C. Butler, Esq. MS. S. T. C., *Sd.* 1827.

17 Milner—Milner] —, — 1834, 1852: Butler—Butler 1893. Yet Milner] Yet Miln— *Sd.* 1827. 25 Who with a zeal that passed *Sd.* 1827. 30 spear] helm *Sd.* 1827. 32 beckoning] proffered *Sd.* 1827. 34 Milner] — 1834, 1852: Butler 1893. boasts] lauds *Sd.* 1827. 35 repeat] reply *Sd.* 1827. 38 or] and *Sd.* 1827.

Leaves the full lie on Milner's gong to swell,  
Content with half-truths that do just as well;  
But duly decks his mitred comrade's flanks,<sup>1</sup>  
And with him shares the Irish nation's thanks !

40

So much for you, my friend ! who own a Church,  
And would not leave your mother in the lurch !  
But when a Liberal asks me what I think—  
Scared by the blood and soot of Cobbett's ink,  
And Jeffrey's glairy phlegm and Connor's foam,  
In search of some safe parable I roam—  
An emblem sometimes may comprise a tome !

45

Disclaimant of his uncaught grandsire's mood,  
I see a tiger lapping kitten's food :  
And who shall blame him that he purs applause,  
When brother Brindle pleads the good old cause ;  
And frisks his pretty tail, and half unsheathes his claws !  
Yet not the less, for modern lights unapt,  
I trust the bolts and cross-bars of the laws  
More than the Protestant milk all newly lapt,  
Impearling a tame wild-cat's whisker'd jaws !

50

55

1825, or 1826.

SONG <sup>2</sup>

THOUGHT veiled in spires of myrtle-wreath,  
Love is a sword which cuts its sheath,  
And through the clefts itself has made,  
We spy the flashes of the blade !

<sup>1</sup> 'Your coadjutor the Titular Bishop Milner'—Bishop of Castabala I had called him, till I learnt from the present pamphlet that he had been translated to the see of Billingsgate.' *Vind. Ecl. Angl.* 1826, p. 228, note.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1828 : included in 1852, 1885, and 1893. A MS. version (undated) is inscribed in a notebook.

<sup>39</sup> Milner's] —'s 1834, 1852 : Butler's 1893. <sup>42</sup> Irish] the O'Gorman MS. S. T. C., Sd. 1827. <sup>46</sup> blood and soot] soot and blood Sd. 1827. <sup>55</sup> lights] sights Sd. 1827.

*Song*—Title] Love, a Sword 1893.

<sup>1</sup> Tho' hid in spiral myrtle wreath MS. <sup>2</sup> which] that MS.  
<sup>3</sup> slits itself hath made MS. <sup>4</sup> flashes] glitter MS.

But through the clefts itself has made  
We likewise see Love's flashing blade,  
By rust consumed, or snapt in twain ;  
And only hilt and stump remain.

? 1825.

5

### A CHARACTER<sup>1</sup>

A BIRD, who for his other sins  
Had liv'd amongst the Jacobins ;  
Though like a kitten amid rats,  
Or callow tit in nest of bats,  
He much abhorr'd all democrats ;  
Yet nathless stood in ill report  
Of wishing ill to Church and Court,  
Tho' he'd nor claw, nor tooth, nor sting,  
And learnt to pipe God save the King ;  
Tho' each day did new feathers bring,  
All swore he had a leathern wing ;  
Nor polish'd wing, nor feather'd tail,  
Nor down-clad thigh would aught avail ;  
And tho'—his tongue devoid of gall—  
He civilly assur'd them all :—  
'A bird am I of Phoebus' breed,  
And on the sunflower cling and feed ;  
My name, good Sirs, is Thomas Tit !'  
The bats would hail him Brother Cit,  
Or, at the furthest, cousin-german.

5

10

15

20

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. It is probable that the immediate provocation of these lines was the publication of Hazlitt's character-sketch of Coleridge in *The Spirit of the Age*, 1825, pp. 57-75. Lines 1-7, 49, 50, 84, 89 are quoted by J. Payne Collier (*An Old Man's Diary*, Oct. 20, 1833, Pt. IV, p. 56) from a MS. presented by Charles Lamb to Martin Burney. A fragmentary MS. with the lines in different order is in the British Museum.

5 clefts] slits MS.

6-8 We spy no less, too, that the Blade,

Is cut away or snapt atwain

And nought but Hilt or Stump remain. MS.

*A Character—Title*] A Trifle MS. J. P. C.

1 for] 'mongst MS. B. M. 2 amongst] among J. P. C. 3 amid]

among J. P. C. 5 all] the J. P. C. 6 ill] bad J. P. C. 7 Of ill  
to Church as well as Court J. P. C. 11 had a] had but a MS. B. M.

At length the matter to determine,  
He publicly denounced the vermin ;  
He spared the mouse, he praised the owl ;  
But bats were neither flesh nor fowl.  
Blood-sucker, vampire, harpy, goul,  
Came in full clatter from his throat,  
Till his old nest-mates chang'd their note  
To hireling, traitor, and turncoat,—  
A base apostate who had sold  
His very teeth and claws for gold ;—  
And then his feathers!—sharp the jest—  
No doubt he feather'd well his nest!  
'A Tit indeed! aye, tit for tat—  
With place and title, brother Bat,  
We soon shall see how well he'll play  
Count Goldfinch, or Sir Joseph Jay!'

Alas, poor Bird! and ill-bestarr'd—  
Or rather let us say, poor Bard!  
And henceforth quit the allegoric,  
With metaphor and simile,  
For simple facts and style historic :—  
Alas, poor Bard! no gold had he;  
Behind another's team he stept,  
And plough'd and sow'd, while others reapt;  
The work was his, but theirs the glory,  
*Sic vos non vobis*, his whole story.  
Besides, whate'er he wrote or said  
Came from his heart as well as head;  
And though he never left in lurch  
His king, his country, or his church,  
'Twas but to humour his own cynical  
Contempt of doctrines Jacobinical;  
To his own conscience only hearty,  
'Twas but by chance he serv'd the party ;—  
The self-same things had said and writ,  
Had Pitt been Fox, and Fox been Pitt;  
Content his own applause to win,  
Would never dash thro' thick and thin,  
And he can make, so say the wise,  
No claim who makes no sacrifice ;—  
And bard still less :—what claim had he,

<sup>22</sup> denounced] disowned MS. B. M.  
<sup>36</sup> Joseph] Judas MS. B. M.

<sup>31</sup> sharp] smoke MS. B. M.

Who swore it vex'd his soul to see  
 So grand a cause, so proud a realm,  
 With Goose and Goody at the helm ;  
 Who long ago had fall'n asunder      65  
 But for their rivals' baser blunder,  
 The coward whine and Frenchified  
 Slaver and slang of the other side?—

Thus, his own whim his only bribe,  
 Our Bard pursued his old A. B. C.      70  
 Contented if he could subscribe  
 In fullest sense his name Ἐστησε;  
 ('Tis Punic Greek for 'he hath stood !')  
 Whate'er the men, the cause was good ;  
 And therefore with a right good will,      75  
 Poor fool, he fights their battles still.  
 Tush ! squeak'd the Bats ;—a mere bravado  
 To whitewash that base renegado ;  
 'Tis plain unless you're blind or mad,  
 His conscience for the bays he barters ;—      80  
 And true it is—as true as sad—  
 These circlets of green baize he had—  
 But then, alas ! they were his garters !  
 Ah ! silly Bard, unfed, unintended,  
 His lamp but glimmer'd in its socket ;      85  
 He lived unhonour'd and unfriended  
 With scarce a penny in his pocket ;—  
 Nay—tho' he hid it from the many—  
 With scarce a pocket for his penny !

1825.

69-74 Yet still pursu'd thro' scoff and gibe  
 From A. to Z. his old A.B.C.  
 Content that he could still subscribe  
 In symbol just his name ΕΣΤΗΣΕ;  
 (In punic Greek that's He hath stood :)  
 Whate'er the men, the cause was good. *MS. B. M.*

84 Ah ! silly bird and unregarded *J. P. C.* : Poor witless Bard, unfed,  
 unintended *MS. B. M.*      86 He liv'd unpraised, and unfriended *MS. B. M.* :  
 unfriended] discarded *J. P. C.*      87 With scarce] Without *J. P. C.*

THE TWO FOUNTS<sup>1</sup>

STANZAS ADDRESSED TO A LADY ON HER RECOVERY WITH  
UNBLEMISHED LOOKS, FROM A SEVERE ATTACK OF PAIN

'TWAS my last waking thought, how it could be  
That thou, sweet friend, such anguish should'st endure ;  
When straight from Dreamland came a Dwarf, and he  
Could tell the cause, forsooth, and knew the cure.

Methought he fronted me with peering look      5  
Fix'd on my heart ; and read aloud in game  
The loves and griefs therein, as from a book :  
And uttered praise like one who wished to blame.

In every heart (quoth he) since Adam's sin  
Two Founts there are, of Suffering and of Cheer !      10  
That to let forth, and this to keep within !  
But she, whose aspect I find imaged here,  
Of Pleasure only will to all dispense,  
That Fount alone unlock, by no distress  
Choked or turned inward, but still issue thence      15  
Unconquered cheer, persistent loveliness.

As on the driving cloud the shiny bow,  
That gracious thing made up of tears and light,  
Mid the wild rack and rain that slants below  
Stands smiling forth, unmoved and freshly bright ;      20  
As though the spirits of all lovely flowers,  
Inweaving each its wreath and dewy crown,  
Or ere they sank to earth in vernal showers,  
Had built a bridge to tempt the angels down.

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Annual Register* for 1827 : reprinted in the *Bijou* for 1828 : included in 1828, 1829, 1834. 'In Gilchrist's *Life of Blake* (1863, i. 337) it is stated that this poem was addressed to Mrs. Aders, the daughter of the engraver Raphael Smith.' *P. W.*, 1892, p. 642.

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Title] Stanzas addressed to a Lady on her Recovery from a Severe attack of Pain *Annual Register*.

11 That—this] *That—this* 1828, 1829.      14 That] *That* 1828, 1829.  
16-17 In a MS. dated 1826, the following stanza precedes stanza 5 of the text :—

Was ne'er on earth seen beauty like to this,  
A concentrated satisfying sight !

In its deep quiet, ask no further bliss—

At once the form and substance of delight.

19-20 Looks forth upon the troubled air below  
Unmov'd, entire, inviolably bright. *MS. 1826.*

Even so, Eliza! on that face of thine,  
On that benignant face, whose look alone  
(The soul's translucence thro' her crystal shrine!)  
Has power to soothe all anguish but thine own,  
A beauty hovers still, and ne'er takes wing,  
But with a silent charm compels the stern  
And tort'ring Genius of the bitter spring,  
To shrink aback, and cower upon his urn.  
Who then needs wonder, if (no outlet found  
In passion, spleen, or strife) the Fount of Pain  
O'erflowing beats against its lovely mound,  
And in wild flashes shoots from heart to brain?  
Sleep, and the Dwarf with that unsteady gleam  
On his raised lip, that aped a critic smile,  
Had passed: yet I, my sad thoughts to beguile,  
Lay weaving on the tissue of my dream;  
Till audibly at length I cried, as though  
Thou hadst indeed been present to my eyes,  
O sweet, sweet sufferer; if the case be so,  
I pray thee, be less good, less sweet, less wise!  
In every look a barbéd arrow send,  
On those soft lips let scorn and anger live!  
Do any thing, rather than thus, sweet friend!  
Hoard for thyself the pain, thou wilt not give!

1826.

CONSTANCY TO AN IDEAL OBJECT<sup>1</sup>

SINCE all that beat about in Nature's range,  
Or veer or vanish; why should'st thou remain  
The only constant in a world of change,  
O yearning Thought! that liv'st but in the brain?  
Call to the Hours, that in the distance play,  
The faery people of the future day—

5

<sup>1</sup> There is no evidence as to date of composition. J. D. Campbell (1893, p. 635) believed that it 'was written at Malta'. Line 18 seems to imply that the poem was not written in England. On the other hand a comparison of ll. 9, 10 with a passage in the *Allegoric Vision*, which was re-written with large additions, and first published in 1817, suggests a much later date. The editors of 1852 include these lines among 'Poems written in Later Life', but the date (? 1826) now assigned is purely conjectural. First published in 1828: included in 1829 and 1834.

31 tort'ring] fost'ring *Annual Register, Bijou.* 44 less—less—less]  
less—less—less 1828, 1829. 47 any] any 1828, 1829.

Fond Thought! not one of all that shining swarm  
 Will breathe on thee with life-enkindling breath,  
 Till when, like strangers shelt'ring from a storm,<sup>1</sup>  
 Hope and Despair meet in the porch of Death!<sup>10</sup>  
 Yet still thou haunt'st me; and though well I see,  
 She is not thou, and only thou art she,  
 Still, still as though some dear embodied Good,  
 Some living Love before my eyes there stood  
 With answering look a ready ear to lend,<sup>15</sup>  
 I mourn to thee and say—‘Ah! loveliest friend!  
 That this the meed of all my toils might be,  
 To have a home, an English home, and thee!’  
 Vain repetition! Home and Thou are one.  
 The peacefull’st cot, the moon shall shine upon,<sup>20</sup>  
 Lulled by the thrush and wakened by the lark,  
 Without thee were but a becalméd bark,  
 Whose Helmsman on an ocean waste and wide  
 Sits mute and pale his mouldering helm beside.

And art thou nothing? Such thou art, as when  
 The woodman winding westward up the glen  
 At wintry dawn, where o'er the sheep-track's maze  
 The viewless snow-mist weaves a glist'ning haze,  
 Sees full before him, gliding without tread,<sup>25</sup>  
 An image<sup>2</sup> with a glory round its head;  
 The enamoured rustic worships its fair hues,  
 Nor knows he makes the shadow, he pursues!

? 1826.

<sup>1</sup> With lines 9, 10 J. D. Campbell compares, ‘After a pause of silence: even thus, said he, like two strangers that have fled to the same shelter from the same storm, not seldom do Despair and Hope meet for the first time in the porch of Death.’ *Allegoric Vision* (1798–1817); vide Appendices of this edition.

<sup>2</sup> This phenomenon, which the Author has himself experienced, and of which the reader may find a description in one of the earlier volumes of the *Manchester Philosophical Transactions*, is applied figuratively to the following passage in the *Aids to Reflection* :—

‘Pindar’s fine remark respecting the different effects of Music, on different characters, holds equally true of Genius—as many as are not delighted by it are disturbed, perplexed, irritated. The beholder either recognises it as a projected form of his own Being, that moves before him with a Glory round its head, or recoils from it as a Spectre.’—*Aids to Reflection* [1825], p. 220.

8 thee] thee 1828, 1829.

14 living] living 1828, 1829.

13 embodied] embodied 1828, 1829.

32 makes] makes 1828, 1829.

THE PANG MORE SHARP THAN ALL<sup>1</sup>

AN ALLEGORY

## I

HE too has flitted from his secret nest,  
 Hope's last and dearest child without a name!—  
 Has flitted from me, like the warmthless flame,  
 That makes false promise of a place of rest  
 To the tired Pilgrim's still believing mind;—  
 Or like some Elfin Knight in kingly court,  
 Who having won all guerdons in his sport,  
 Glides out of view, and whither none can find! 5

## II

Yes! he hath flitted from me—with what aim,  
 Or why, I know not! 'Twas a home of bliss, 10  
 And he was innocent, as the pretty shame  
 Of babe, that tempts and shuns the menaced kiss,

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. With lines 36–43, and with the poem as a whole, compare the following fragments of uncertain date, which were first published in a note to the edition of 1893. Both the poem as completed and these fragments of earlier drafts seem to belong to the last decade of the poet's life. The water-mark of the scrap of paper on which these drafts are written is 1819, but the tone and workmanship of the verse suggest a much later date, possibly 1826.

‘— into my Heart

The magic Child as in a magic glass  
 Transfused, and ah! he *left* within my Heart  
 A loving Image and a counterpart.’

‘— into my Heart

As 'twere some magic Glass the magic child  
 Transfused his Image and full counterpart;  
 And then he left it like a Sylph beguiled  
 To live and yearn and languish incomplete!  
 Day following day, more rugged grows my path,  
 There dwells a cloud before my heavy eyes;  
 A Blank my Heart, and Hope is dead and buried,  
 Yet the deep yearning will not die; but Love  
 Clings on and cloathes the marrowless remains,  
 Like the fresh moss that grows on dead men's bones,  
 Quaint mockery! and fills its scarlet cups  
 With the chill dewdamps of the Charnel House.  
 O ask not for my Heart! my Heart is but  
 The darksome vault where Hope lies dead and buried,  
 And Love with Asbest Lamp bewails the Corse.’

From its twy-cluster'd hiding place of snow !  
 Pure as the babe, I ween, and all aglow  
 As the dear hopes, that swell the mother's breast— 15  
 Her eyes down gazing o'er her clasp'd charge ;—  
 Yet gay as that twice happy father's kiss,  
 That well might glance aside, yet never miss,  
 Where the sweet mark emboss'd so sweet a targe—  
 Twice wretched he who hath been doubly blest ! 20

## III

Like a loose blossom on a gusty night  
 He flitted from me—and has left behind  
 (As if to them his faith he ne'er did plight)  
 Of either sex and answerable mind  
 Two playmates, twin-births of his foster-dame :— 25  
 The one a steady lad (Esteem he hight)  
 And Kindness is the gentler sister's name.  
 Dim likeness now, though fair she be and good,  
 Of that bright Boy who hath us all forsook ;—  
 But in his full-eyed aspect when she stood, 30  
 And while her face reflected every look,  
 And in reflection kindled—she became  
 So like Him, that almost she seem'd the same !

## IV

Ah ! he is gone, and yet will not depart !—  
 Is with me still, yet I from him exiled ! 35  
 For still there lives within my secret heart  
 The magic image of the magic Child,  
 Which there he made up-grow by his strong art,  
 As in that crystal<sup>1</sup> orb—wise Merlin's feat,—  
 The wondrous 'World of Glass,' wherein inisled 40  
 All long'd-for things their beings did repeat ;—  
 And there he left it, like a Sylph beguiled,  
 To live and yearn and languish incomplete !

## V

Can wit of man a heavier grief reveal ?  
 Can sharper pang from hate or scorn arise ?— 45  
 Yes ! one more sharp there is that deeper lies,  
 Which fond Esteem but mocks when he would heal.

<sup>1</sup> *Faerie Queene*, b. iii. c. 2, s. 19.

Yet neither scorn nor hate did it devise,  
But sad compassion and atoning zeal!  
One pang more blighting-keen than hope betray'd! 50  
And this it is my woeful hap to feel,  
When, at her Brother's hest, the twin-born Maid  
With face averted and unsteady eyes,  
Her truant playmate's faded robe puts on;  
And inly shrinking from her own disguise  
Enacts the faery Boy that's lost and gone.  
O worse than all! O pang all pangs above  
Is Kindness counterfeiting absent Love!

?1825-6.

55

## DUTY SURVIVING SELF-LOVE<sup>1</sup>

### THE ONLY SURE FRIEND OF DECLINING LIFE

#### A SOLILOQUY

UNCHANGED within, to see all changed without,  
Is a blank lot and hard to bear, no doubt.  
Yet why at others' wanings should'st thou fret?  
Then only might'st thou feel a just regret,

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1828: included in 1829 and 1834. The MS. of the first draft, dated Sept. 2, 1826, is preceded by the following introductory note:—

‘QUESTION, ANSWER, AND SOLILOQUY.

And are *you* (said Alia to Constantius, on whose head sickness and sorrow had antedated Winter, ere yet the time of Vintage had passed), Are you the happier for your Philosophy? And the smile of Constantius was as the light from a purple cluster of the vine, gleaming through snowflakes, as he replied, The Boons of Philosophy are of higher worth, than what you, O Alia, mean by Happiness. But I will not seem to evade the question—Am *I* the happier for my Philosophy? The calmer at least and the less unhappy, answered Constantius, for it has enabled me to find that selfless Reason is the best Comforter, and only sure friend of declining Life. At this moment the sounds of a carriage followed by the usual bravura executed on the brazen knocker announced a morning visit: and Alia hastened to receive the party. Meantime the grey-haired philosopher, left to his own musings, continued playing with the thoughts that Alia and Alia's question had excited, till he murmured them to himself in half audible words, which at first casually, and then for the amusement of his ear, he punctuated with rhymes, without however conceiting that he had by these means changed them into poetry.'

<sup>4</sup> When thy own body first the example set. MS. S.T.C.

Hadst thou withheld thy love or hid thy light                        5  
 In selfish forethought of neglect and slight.  
 O wiselier then, from feeble yearnings freed,  
 While, and on whom, thou may'st—shine on ! nor heed  
 Whether the object by reflected light  
 Return thy radiance or absorb it quite:                              10  
 And though thou notest from thy safe recess  
 Old Friends burn dim, like lamps in noisome air,  
 Love them for what they are ; nor love them less,  
 Because to thee they are not what they were.

1826.

HOMELESS<sup>1</sup>

'O ! CHRISTMAS Day, Oh ! happy day !  
 A foretaste from above,  
 To him who hath a happy home  
 And love returned from love !'

O ! Christmas Day, O gloomy day,                                5  
 The barb in Memory's dart,  
 To him who walks alone through Life,  
 The desolate in heart.

1826.

LINES<sup>2</sup>

SUGGESTED BY THE LAST WORDS OF BERENGARIUS

OB. ANNO DOM. 1088

No more 'twixt conscience staggering and the Pope  
 Soon shall I now before my God appear,

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *Literary Magnet*, January, 1827, p. 71. First collected in 1893. A transcript, possibly in Mrs. Gillman's handwriting, is inscribed on the fly-leaf of a copy of Bartram's *Travels in South Carolina* which Coleridge purchased in April 1818. J. D. Campbell prefixed the title 'Homeless', and assigned 1810 as a conjectural date. Attention was first called to publication in the *Literary Magnet* by Mr. Bertram Dobell in the *Athenaeum*.

<sup>2</sup> First published in the *Literary Souvenir*, 1827. The *Epitaphium Testamentarium* (*vide post*, p. 462) is printed in a footnote to the word 'Berengarius'. Included in 1828, 1829, and 1834.

5-11 om. MS. S. T. C.    8 While—on whom] *While—on whom* 1828,  
 1829.    1829.    14 thee—  
 9 object] Body MS. S. T. C.    13 are] are 1828, 1829.    were] *thee—were* 1828, 1829.

*Homeless—Title]* An Impromptu on Christmas Day *L. M.* 1827.

4 from] for *L. M.* 1827.

By him to be acquitted, as I hope ;  
By him to be condemnéd, as I fear.—

## REFLECTION ON THE ABOVE

Lynx amid moles ! had I stood by thy bed,  
Be of good cheer, meek soul ! I would have said : 5  
I see a hope spring from that humble fear.  
All are not strong alike through storms to steer  
Right onward. What ? though dread of threatened death  
And dungeon torture made thy hand and breath 10  
Inconstant to the truth within thy heart !  
That truth, from which, through fear, thou twice didst start,  
Fear haply told thee, was a learned strife,  
Or not so vital as to claim thy life :  
And myriads had reached Heaven, who never knew 15  
Where lay the difference 'twixt the false and true !

Ye, who secure 'mid trophies not your own,  
Judge him who won them when he stood alone,  
And proudly talk of recreant Berengare—  
O first the age, and then the man compare ! 20  
That age how dark ! congenial minds how rare !  
No host of friends with kindred zeal did burn !  
No throbbing hearts awaited his return !  
Prostrate alike when prince and peasant fell,  
He only disenchanted from the spell, 25  
Like the weak worm that gems the starless night,  
Moved in the scanty circlet of his light :  
And was it strange if he withdrew the ray  
That did but guide the night-birds to their prey ?

The ascending day-star with a bolder eye 30  
Hath lit each dew-drop on our trimmer lawn !  
Yet not for this, if wise, shall we decry  
The spots and struggles of the timid Dawn ;  
Lest so we tempt th' approaching Noon to scorn  
The mists and painted vapours of our Morn. 35

?1826.

13 learned] learned L. S. 19 recreant] recreant L. S., 1828, 1829.  
23 his] his L. S. 32 shall] will L. S., 1828, 1829. 34 th' approaching]  
the coming L. S.

EPITAPHIUM TESTAMENTARIUM<sup>1</sup>

Tὸ τοῦ ἘΣΤΗΣΕ τοῦ ἐπιθανοῦς Epitaphium testamentarium αὐτόγραφον.

Quae linquam, aut nihil, aut nihili, aut vix sunt mea. Sordes  
Do Morti: reddo caetera, Christe! tibi.

1826.

*"Ἐρως ἀεὶ λάληθρος ἔταιρος<sup>2</sup>*

IN many ways does the full heart reveal  
The presence of the love it would conceal;  
But in far more th' estrangéd heart lets know  
The absence of the love, which yet it fain would shew.

1826.

THE IMPROVISATORE<sup>3</sup>

OR, 'JOHN ANDERSON, MY JO, JOHN'

*Scene—A spacious drawing-room, with music-room adjoining.*

*Katharine.* What are the words?

*Eliza.* Ask our friend, the Improvisatore; here he comes.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Literary Souvenir* of 1827, as footnote to title of the *Lines Suggested by the Last Words of Berengarius*: included in *Literary Remains*, 1836, i. 60: first collected in 1844.

<sup>2</sup> This quatrain was prefixed as a motto to 'Prose in Rhyme; and Epigrams, Moralities, and Things without a Name', the concluding section of 'Poems' in the edition of 1828, 1829, vol. ii, pp. 75–117. It was prefixed to 'Miscellaneous Poems' in 1834, vol. ii, pp. 55–152, and to 'Poems written in Later Life', 1852, pp. 319–78.

<sup>3</sup> First published in the *Amulet* for 1828 (with a prose introduction entitled 'New Thoughts on Old Subjects; or Conversational Dialogues on Interests and Events of Common Life.' By S. T. Coleridge): included in 1829 and 1834. The text of 1834 is identical with that of the *Amulet*,

Title] ΕΠΙΤΑΦΙΟΝ ΑΤΤΟΓΡΑΠΤΟΝ L. R., 1844: [ἐπιθανοῦς] ἐπιδανοῦς L. S.

The emendation *ἐπιθανοῦς* (i. e. moribund) was suggested by the Reader of Macmillan's edition of 1893. Other alternatives, e.g. *ἐπιδενοῦς* (the lacking), to the word as misprinted in the *Literary Souvenir* have been suggested, but there can be no doubt that what Coleridge intended to imply was that he was near his end.

Greek motto: 'Ἐρως ἀεὶ λάλος MS. S. T. C.'

I-4 In many ways I own do we reveal.

The Presence of the Love we would conceal,

But in how many more do we let know

The absence of the Love we found would show. MS. S. T. C.

Kate has a favour to ask of you, Sir ; it is that you will repeat the ballad<sup>1</sup> that Mr. —— sang so sweetly.

*Friend.* It is in Moore's Irish Melodies ; but I do not recollect the words distinctly. The moral of them, however, I take to be this :—

Love would remain the same if true,  
When we were neither young nor new ;  
Yea, and in all within the will that came,  
By the same proofs would show itself the same.

*Eliz.* What are the lines you repeated from Beaumont and Fletcher, which my mother admired so much ? It begins with something about two vines so close that their tendrils intermingle.

*Fri.* You mean Charles' speech to Angelina, in *The Elder Brother*<sup>2</sup>.

We'll live together, like two neighbour vines,  
Circling our souls and loves in one another !  
We'll spring together, and we'll bear one fruit ;  
One joy shall make us smile, and one grief mourn ;  
One age go with us, and one hour of death  
Shall close our eyes, and one grave make us happy.

*Kath.* A precious boon, that would go far to reconcile one to old age—this love—if true ! But is there any such true love ?

*Fri.* I hope so.

*Kath.* But do you believe it ?

*Eliz. (eagerly).* I am sure he does.

*Fri.* From a man turned of fifty, Katharine, I imagine, expects a less confident answer.

*Kath.* A more sincere one, perhaps.

*Fri.* Even though he should have obtained the nick-name of Improvisatore, by perpetrating charades and extempore verses at Christmas times ?

*Eliz.* Nay, but be serious.

*Fri.* Serious ! Doubtless. A grave personage of my years giving a Love-lecture to two young ladies, cannot well be otherwise. The difficulty, I suspect, would be for them to

1828, but the italics in the prose dialogue were not reproduced. They have been replaced in the text of the present issue. The title may have been suggested by L. E. L.'s *Improvisatrice* published in 1824.

<sup>1</sup> 'Believe me if all those endearing young charms.'

<sup>2</sup> See Beaumont and Fletcher, *The Elder Brother*, Act III, Scene v. In the original the lines are printed as prose. In line 1 of the quotation Coleridge has substituted 'neighbour' for 'wanton', and in line 6, 'close' for 'shut'.

remain so. It will be asked whether I am not the 'elderly gentleman' who sate 'despairing beside a clear stream', with a willow for his wig-block.

*Eliz.* Say another word, and we will call it downright affectation.

*Kath.* No! we will be affronted, drop a courtesy, and ask pardon for our presumption in expecting that Mr. —— would waste his sense on two insignificant girls.

*Fri.* Well, well, I will be serious. Hem! Now then commences the discourse; Mr. Moore's song being the text. Love, as distinguished from Friendship, on the one hand, and from the passion that too often usurps its name, on the other—

*Lucius* (*Eliza's brother, who had just joined the trio, in a whisper to the Friend*). But is not Love the union of both?

*Fri. (aside to Lucius).* He never loved who thinks so.

*Eliz.* Brother, we don't want *you*. There! Mrs. H. cannot arrange the flower vase without you. Thank you, Mrs. Hartman.

*Luc.* I'll have my revenge! I know what I will say!

*Eliz.* Off! Off! Now, dear Sir,—Love, you were saying—

*Fri.* Hush! *Preaching*, you mean, Eliza.

*Eliz. (impatiently).* Pshaw!

*Fri.* Well then, I was *saying* that Love, truly such, is itself not the most common thing in the world: and mutual love still less so. But that enduring personal attachment, so beautifully delineated by Erin's sweet melodist, and still more touchingly, perhaps, in the well-known ballad, 'John Anderson, my Jo, John,' in addition to a depth and constancy of character of no every-day occurrence, supposes a peculiar sensibility and tenderness of nature; a constitutional communicativeness and utterancy of heart and soul; a delight in the detail of sympathy, in the outward and visible signs of the sacrament within—to count, as it were, the pulses of the life of love. But above all, it supposes a soul which, even in the pride and summer-tide of life—even in the lustihood of health and strength, had felt oftenest and prized highest that which age cannot take away and which, in all our lovings, is *the Love*;—

*Eliz.* There is something *here* (*pointing to her heart*) that seems to understand you, but wants the *word* that would make it understand itself.

*Kath.* I, too, seem to *feel* what you mean. Interpret the feeling for us.

*Fri.* — I mean that *willing* sense of the insufficingness of the *self* for itself, which predisposes a generous nature to see, in the total being of another, the supplement and completion of its own ;—that quiet perpetual *seeking* which the presence of the beloved object modulates, not suspends, where the heart momently finds, and, finding, again seeks on ;—lastly, when ‘life’s changeful orb has pass’d the full’, a confirmed faith in the nobleness of humanity, thus brought home and pressed, as it were, to the very bosom of hourly experience ; it supposes, I say, a heartfelt reverence for worth, not the less deep because divested of its solemnity by habit, by familiarity, by mutual infirmities, and even by a feeling of modesty which will arise in delicate minds, when they are conscious of possessing the same or the correspondent excellence in their own characters. In short, there must be a mind, which, while it feels the beautiful and the excellent in the beloved as its own, and by right of love appropriates it, can call Goodness its Playfellow ; and dares make sport of time and infirmity, while, in the person of a thousand-foldly endeared partner, we feel for aged Virtue the caressing fondness that belongs to the Innocence of childhood, and repeat the same attentions and tender courtesies which had been dictated by the same affection to the same object when attired in feminine loveliness or in manly beauty.

*Eliz.* What a soothing—what an elevating idea !

*Kath.* If it be not only an *idea*.

*Fri.* At all events, these qualities which I have enumerated, are rarely found united in a single individual. How much more rare must it be, that two such individuals should meet together in this wide world under circumstances that admit of their union as Husband and Wife. A person may be highly estimable on the whole, nay, amiable as neighbour, friend, housemate—in short, in all the concentric circles of attachment save only the last and inmost ; and yet from how many causes be estranged from the highest perfection in this ! Pride, coldness, or fastidiousness of nature, worldly cares, an anxious or ambitious disposition, a passion for display, a sullen temper,—one or the other—too often proves ‘the dead fly in the compost of spices’, and any one is enough to unfit it for the precious balm of unction. For some mighty good sort of people, too, there is not seldom a sort of solemn saturnine, or, if you will, *ursine* vanity, that keeps itself alive by sucking the paws of its own self-importance. And as this high sense, or rather sensation of their own value is, for the most part, grounded on

negative qualities, so they have no better means of preserving the same but by *negatives*—that is, by *not* doing or saying any thing, that might be put down for fond, silly, or nonsensical; —or (to use their own phrase) by *never forgetting themselves*, which some of their acquaintance are uncharitable enough to think the most worthless object they could be employed in remembering.

*Eliz.* (*in answer to a whisper from Katharine*). To a hair! He must have sate for it himself. Save me from such folks! But they are out of the question.

*Fri.* True! but the same effect is produced in thousands by the too general insensibility to a very important truth; this, namely, that the MISERY of human life is made up of large masses, each separated from the other by certain intervals. One year, the death of a child; years after, a failure in trade; after another longer or shorter interval, a daughter may have married unhappily;—in all but the singularly unfortunate, the integral parts that compose the sum total of the unhappiness of a man's life, are easily counted, and distinctly remembered. The HAPPINESS of life, on the contrary, is made up of minute fractions—the little, soon-forgotten charities of a kiss, a smile, a kind look, a heartfelt compliment in the disguise of playful raillery, and the countless other infinitesimals of pleasurable thought and genial feeling.

*Kath.* Well, Sir; you have said quite enough to make me despair of finding a 'John Anderson, my Jo, John', with whom to totter down the hill of life.

*Fri.* Not so! Good men are not, I trust, so much scarcer than good women, but that what another would find in you, you may hope to find in another. But well, however, may that boon be rare, the possession of which would be more than an adequate reward for the rarest virtue.

*Eliz.* Surely, he, who has described it so well, must have possessed it?

*Fri.* If he were worthy to have possessed it, and had believably anticipated and not found it, how bitter the disappointment!

(*Then, after a pause of a few minutes*),

ANSWER, *ex improviso*

Yes, yes! that boon, life's richest treat  
He had, or fancied that he had;  
Say, 'twas but in his own conceit—  
The fancy made him glad!

Crown of his cup, and garnish of his dish !  
 The boon, prefigured in his earliest wish,  
 The fair fulfilment of his poesy,  
 When his young heart first yearn'd for sympathy !  
 But e'en the meteor offspring of the brain

Unnourished wane ;

Faith asks her daily bread,  
 And Fancy must be fed !

Now so it chanced—from wet or dry,  
 It boots not how—I know not why—  
 She missed her wonted food ; and quickly  
 Poor Fancy stagger'd and grew sickly.  
 Then came a restless state, 'twixt yea and nay,  
 His faith was fix'd, his heart all ebb and flow ;  
 Or like a bark, in some half-shelter'd bay,  
 Above its anchor driving to and fro.

20

That boon, which but to have possess'd  
 In a *belief*, gave life a zest—

Uncertain both what it *had* been,  
 And if by error lost, or luck ;  
 And what it *was* ;—an evergreen  
 Which some insidious blight had struck,  
 Or annual flower, which, past its blow,  
 No vernal spell shall e'er revive ;  
 Uncertain, and afraid to know,

Doubts toss'd him to and fro :  
 Hope keeping Love, Love Hope alive,  
 Like babes bewildered in a snow,  
 That cling and huddle from the cold  
 In hollow tree or ruin'd fold.

25

Those sparkling colours, once his boast

Fading, one by one away,  
 Thin and hueless as a ghost,  
 Poor Fancy on her sick bed lay ;  
 Ill at distance, worse when near,  
 Telling her dreams to jealous Fear !  
 Where was it then, the sociable sprite  
 That crown'd the Poet's cup and deck'd his dish !  
 Poor shadow cast from an unsteady wish,  
 Itself a substance by no other right  
 But that it intercepted Reason's light ;

30

40

45

It dimm'd his eye, it darken'd on his brow,  
A peevish mood, a tedious time, I trow !  
    Thank Heaven ! 'tis not so now.

O bliss of blissful hours !  
The boon of Heaven's decreeing,                         50  
While yet in Eden's bowers  
Dwelt the first husband and his sinless mate !  
The one sweet plant, which, piteous Heaven agreeing,  
They bore with them thro' Eden's closing gate !  
Of life's gay summer tide the sovran Rose !                 55  
Late autumn's Amaranth, that more fragrant blows  
When Passion's flowers all fall or fade ;  
If this were ever his, in outward being,  
Or but his own true love's projected shade,  
Now that at length by certain proof he knows,                 60  
That whether real or a magic show,  
Whate'er it was, it is no longer so ;  
Though heart be lonesome, Hope laid low,  
Yet, Lady ! deem him not unblest :  
The certainty that struck Hope dead,                         65  
Hath left Contentment in her stead :  
    And that is next to Best !

1827.

TO MARY PRIDHAM<sup>1</sup>

[AFTERWARDS MRS. DERWENT COLERIDGE]

DEAR tho' unseen ! tho' I have left behind  
Life's gayer views and all that stirs the mind,  
Now I revive, Hope making a new start,  
Since I have heard with most believing heart,  
That all my glad eyes would grow bright to see,                 5  
My Derwent hath found realiz'd in thee,

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1893. Lines 7-10 are borrowed from lines 5-8 of the 'Answer ex improviso', which forms part of the *Improvisatore* (ll. 7, 8 are transposed). An original MS. is inscribed on the first page of an album presented to Mrs. Derwent Coleridge on her marriage, by her husband's friend, the Reverend John Moultrie. The editor of *P. W.*, 1893, printed from another MS. dated Grove, Highgate, 15th October, 1827.

Title] To Mary S. Pridham MS. S. T. C.

1-3 Dear tho' unseen ! tho' hard has been my lot  
And rough my path thro' life, I murmur not—  
Rather rejoice— MS. S. T. C.

5 That all this shaping heart has yearned to see MS. S. T. C.

The boon prefigur'd in his earliest wish  
 Crown of his cup and garnish of his dish !  
 The fair fulfilment of his poesy,  
 When his young heart first yearn'd for sympathy !      10  
 Dear tho' unseen ! unseen, yet long portray'd !  
 A Father's blessing on thee, gentle Maid !

S. T. COLERIDGE.

16th October 1827.

ALICE DU CLOS<sup>1</sup>

## OR THE FORKED TONGUE

## A BALLAD

'One word with two meanings is the traitor's shield and shaft : and a slit tongue be his blazon !'—*Caucasian Proverb.*

'THE Sun is not yet risen,  
 But the dawn lies red on the dew :  
 Lord Julian has stolen from the hunters away,  
 Is seeking, Lady ! for you.

Put on your dress of green,

5

Your buskins and your quiver ;

Lord Julian is a hasty man,

Long waiting brook'd he never.

I dare not doubt him, that he means

To wed you on a day,

10

Your lord and master for to be,

And you his lady gay.

O Lady ! throw your book aside !

I would not that my Lord should chide.'

Thus spake Sir Hugh the vassal knight

15

To Alice, child of old Du Clos,

As spotless fair, as airy light

As that moon-shiny doe,

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. The date of composition cannot be ascertained. The MS., an early if not a first draft, is certainly of late date. The water-marks of the paper (Bath Post) are 1822 and 1828. There is a second draft (MS. b) of lines 97–112. Line 37, 'Dan Ovid's mazy tale of loves,' may be compared with line 100 of *The Garden of Boccaccio*, 'Peers Ovid's Holy Book of Love's sweet smart,' and it is probable that *Alice Du Clos* was written about the same time, 1828–9. In line 91 'Ellen' is no doubt a slip of the pen for 'Alice'.

8 his] the MS. S. T. C.

his] the MS. S. T. C.

Title] Alice Du Clós; or &amp;c. MS.

The gold star on its brow, her sire's ancestral crest !  
 For ere the lark had left his nest, 20  
     She in the garden bower below  
     Sate loosely wrapt in maiden white,  
     Her face half drooping from the sight,  
     A snow-drop on a tuft of snow !

O close your eyes, and strive to see 25  
 The studious maid, with book on knee,—  
     Ah ! earliest-open'd flower ;  
     While yet with keen unblunted light  
     The morning star shone opposite  
     The lattice of her bower— 30  
     Alone of all the starry host,  
     As if in prideful scorn  
     Of flight and fear he stay'd behind,  
     To brave th' advancing morn.

O ! Alice could read passing well, 35  
     And she was conning then  
     Dan Ovid's mazy tale of loves,  
     And gods, and beasts, and men.

The vassal's speech, his taunting vein,  
 It thrill'd like venom thro' her brain ; 40  
     Yet never from the book  
 She rais'd her head, nor did she deign  
     The knight a single look.

'Off, traitor friend ! how dar'st thou fix  
     Thy wanton gaze on me ?  
 And why, against my earnest suit, 45  
     Does Julian send by thee ?

19-25           Her sires had chosen for their Crest  
                 A star atwixt its brow,  
                 For she, already up and drest  
                 Sate in the garden bower below.  
                 For she enwrapt in } Maiden white  
                 Enwrapt in robe of }  
                 { face half drooping  
                 Her { visage drooping     from the sight  
                 A snow-drop in a tuft of snow  
                 Ere the first lark had left the nest  
                 Sate in the garden bower below. *MS. erased.*

'Go, tell thy Lord, that slow is sure:  
 Fair speed his shafts to-day!  
**I** follow here a stronger lure,  
 And chase a gentler prey.'

50

She said: and with a baleful smile  
 The vassal knight reel'd off—  
 Like a huge billow from a bark  
 Toil'd in the deep sea-trough,  
 That shouldering sideways in mid plunge,  
 Is travers'd by a flash.  
 And staggering onward, leaves the ear  
 With dull and distant crash.

55

And Alice sat with troubled mien  
 A moment; for the scoff was keen,  
 And thro' her veins did shiver!  
 Then rose and donn'd her dress of green,  
 Her buskins and her quiver.

60

There stands the flow'r-ing may-thorn tree!  
 From thro' the veiling mist you see  
 The black and shadowy stem;—  
 Smit by the sun the mist in glee  
 Dissolves to lightsome jewelry—  
 Each blossom hath its gem!

65

70

48 Go tell him I am well at home *MS. erased.* 49 speed] fly  
*MS. erased.* 50 stronger] sweeter *MS. erased.* 51 gentler] lovelier  
*MS. erased.* 53 reel'd] pass'd *MS. erased.*

54-7 Like a tall Wave that { stormy  
 Reels sideway from a toiling Bark  
 Toil'd in the deep sea-trough  
 Is traversed by }  
 Catches askance } the Lightning flash  
 or Like a huge Billow, rude and dark  
 { as it falls off from a Bark  
 That { tumbling mainward from  
 Toil'd in the deep Sea-trough. *MS. erased.*

56 shoulder] wheeling *MS. erased.* 61 A moment's pause *MS. erased.*

65 Yon May-thorn tree dimly—  
 or O fairly flower yon may-thorn tree *MS. erased.*  
 69 lightsome] glittering *MS.*

With tear-drop glittering to a smile,  
 The gay maid on the garden-stile  
     Mimics the hunter's shout.  
 'Hip! Florian, hip! To horse, to horse!  
     Go, bring the palfrey out.

75

'My Julian's out with all his clan,  
     And, bonny boy, you wis,  
 Lord Julian is a hasty man,  
     Who comes late, comes amiss.'

Now Florian was a stripling squire,  
     A gallant boy of Spain,  
 That toss'd his head in joy and pride,  
     Behind his Lady fair to ride,  
     But blush'd to hold her train.

80

The huntress is in her dress of green,—  
     And forth they go; she with her bow,  
     Her buskins and her quiver!—  
 The squire—no younger e'er was seen—  
     With restless arm and laughing een,  
     He makes his javelin quiver.

85

90

And had not Ellen stay'd the race,  
     And stopp'd to see, a moment's space,  
     The whole great globe of light  
 Give the last parting kiss-like touch  
     To the eastern ridge, it lack'd not much,  
     They had o'erta'en the knight.

95

It chanced that up the covert lane,  
     Where Julian waiting stood,  
 A neighbour knight prick'd on to join  
     The huntsmen in the wood.

100

And with him must Lord Julian go,  
     Tho' with an anger'd mind:  
 Betroth'd not wedded to his bride,  
     In vain he sought, 'twixt shame and pride,  
     Excuse to stay behind.

105

71 With] The MS.     76 Lord Julian in the Greenwood stays MS. erased.  
 87 With buskins and with quiver MS. erased.     100 huntsmen] hunts-  
 man MS. b.     104 He sought in vain 'twixt shame and pride MS. b.

He bit his lip, he wrung his glove,  
He look'd around, he look'd above,  
    But pretext none could find or frame.  
Alas ! alas ! and well-a-day !  
It grieves me sore to think, to say,  
    That names so seldom meet with Love,  
    Yet Love wants courage without a name !

Straight from the forest's skirt the trees  
    O'er-branching, made an aisle,  
Where hermit old might pace and chaunt  
    As in a minster's pile.

From underneath its leafy screen,  
    And from the twilight shade,  
You pass at once into a green,  
    A green and lightsome glade.

And there Lord Julian sate on steed ;  
    Behind him, in a round,  
Stood knight and squire, and menial train ;  
    Against the leash the greyhounds strain ;  
    The horses paw'd the ground.

When up the alley green, Sir Hugh  
    Spurr'd in upon the sward,  
And mute, without a word, did he  
    Fall in behind his lord.

Lord Julian turn'd his steed half round,—  
    ‘What ! doth not Alice deign  
To accept your loving convoy, knight ?  
    Or doth she fear our woodland sleight,  
    And join us on the plain ?’

With stifled tones the knight replied,  
    And look'd askance on either side,—  
    ‘Nay, let the hunt proceed !—  
The Lady's message that I bear,  
    I guess would scantily please your ear,  
    And less deserves your heed.

107 He look'd far round MS. b. 110 sore] sair MS. b, MS. erased.  
111 Tho' names too seldom MS. b. 122 With all his gay hunt round MS.  
126 When] And MS. 128 And dark of Brow, without a word MS.  
135 stifled] muttering MS. erased. 136 And Look askance MS.: Yet  
not unheard MS. erased.

‘You sent betimes. Not yet unbarr’d  
 I found the middle door ;—  
 Two stirrers only met my eyes,  
 Fair Alice, and one more.

‘I came unlook’d for ; and, it seem’d,  
 In an unwelcome hour ;  
 And found the daughter of Du Clos  
 Within the lattic’d bower.

‘But hush ! the rest may wait. If lost,  
 No great loss, I divine ;  
 And idle words will better suit  
 A fair maid’s lips than mine.’

‘God’s wrath ! speak out, man,’ Julian cried,  
 O’ermaster’d by the sudden smart ;—  
 And feigning wrath, sharp, blunt, and rude,  
 The knight his subtle shift pursued.—  
 ‘Scowl not at me ; command my skill,  
 To lure your hawk back, if you will,  
 But not a woman’s heart.

““Go ! (said she) tell him,—slow is sure ;  
 Fair speed his shafts to-day !  
 I follow here a stronger lure,  
 And chase a gentler prey.”

‘The game, pardie, was full in sight,  
 That then did, if I saw aright,  
 The fair dame’s eyes engage ;  
 For turning, as I took my ways,  
 I saw them fix’d with steadfast gaze  
 Full on her wanton page.’

The last word of the traitor knight  
 It had but entered Julian’s ear,—

153-7 God’s wrath ! speak out ! { Lord Julian ery’d  
 { What mean’st thou man ?  
 { Recoiling with a start  
 { Cried Julian with a start.

{ well-feign’d anger  
 With { feign’d resentment blunt and rude  
 Sir Hugh his deep revenge pursued  
 Why scowl at me ? Command my skill. MS. erased (*first draft*).

159 She bade me tell you MS. erased.

167 For as she clos’d her  
 scoffing phrase MS. erased.

From two o'erarching oaks between,  
With glist'ning helm-like cap is seen,  
Borne on in giddy cheer,  
A youth, that ill his steed can guide ;      175  
Yet with reverted face doth ride,  
As answering to a voice,  
That seems at once to laugh and chide—  
'Not mine, dear mistress,' still he cried,  
'Tis this mad filly's choice.'      180

With sudden bound, beyond the boy,  
See ! see ! that face of hope and joy,  
That regal front ! those cheeks aglow !  
Thou needed'st but the crescent sheen,  
A quiver'd Dian to have been,      185  
Thou lovely child of old Du Clos !

Dark as a dream Lord Julian stood,  
Swift as a dream, from forth the wood,  
Sprang on the plighted Maid !  
With fatal aim, and frantic force,      190  
The shaft was hurl'd !—a lifeless corse,  
Fair Alice from her vaulting horse,  
Lies bleeding on the glade.

? 1828.

LOVE'S BURIAL-PLACE<sup>1</sup>*Lady.* If Love be dead—*Poet.* And I aver it !*Lady.* Tell me, Bard ! where Love lies buried ?*Poet.* Love lies buried where 'twas born :

Oh, gentle dame ! think it no scorn

5

If, in my fancy, I presume

To call thy bosom poor Love's Tomb.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1828 : included in the *Amulet*, 1833, as the first of 'Three Scraps', and in 1852. The present text is that of the *Amulet*, 1833.

173-4      And who from twixt those opening Trees  
Pricks on with laughing cheer *MS. erased (first draft).*

*Love's Burial-Place—Title]* The Alienated Mistress: A Madrigal (From an unfinished Melodrama) 1828, 1852.

1-3 *Lady.* If Love be dead (and you aver it !)

Tell me Bard ! where Love lies buried. 1828, 1852.

5 Ah faithless nymph 1828, 1852.      7 call] name 1828, 1852.

And on that tomb to read the line:—  
 ‘Here lies a Love that once seem'd mine,  
 But caught a chill, as I divine,  
 And died at length of a Decline.’

10

1828.

LINES<sup>1</sup>

TO A COMIC AUTHOR, ON AN ABUSIVE REVIEW

WHAT though the chilly wide-mouth'd quacking chorus  
 From the rank swamps of murk Review-land croak:  
 So was it, neighbour, in the times before us,  
 When Momus, throwing on his Attic cloak,  
 Romp'd with the Graces; and each tickled Muse      5  
 (That Turk, Dan Phœbus, whom bards call divine,  
 Was married to—at least, he kept—all nine)  
 Fled, but still with reverted faces ran;  
 Yet, somewhat the broad freedoms to excuse,  
 They had allured the audacious Greek to use,      10  
 Swore they mistook him for their own good man.  
 This Momus—Aristophanes on earth  
 Men call'd him—maugre all his wit and worth,

5

10

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Friendship's Offering*, 1834, as No. III of ‘Light-heartednesses in Rhyme’: included in 1834.

9 seem'd] was 1828, 1852.      10 caught] took 1828, 1852.

*Lines to a Comic Author, &c.—Title*] To a Comic Author on an abusive review of his Aristophanes MS.

1 foll.

They fled:—

Friend yet unknown! What tho' a brainless rout  
*Usurp the sacred title of the Bard*—  
 What tho' the chilly wide-mouth'd chorus  
 From Styx or Lethe's oozy Channel croak:  
 So was it, Peter, in the times before us  
 When Momus throwing on his Attic cloak  
 Romp'd with the Graces and each tickled Muse  
 The plighted coterie of Phœbus he bespoke  
 And laughing with reverted faces ran,  
 And somewhat the broad freedom to excuse  
 They had allow'd the audacious Greek to use  
 Swore they mistook him for their own good man!  
 If the good dulness be the home of worth  
 Duller than Frogs co-ax'd, or Jeffrey writ

We, too, will Aristoff (*sic*) and welcome it— *First draft MS. B. M.*

7 kept] kept F.O. 1834.

Was croak'd and gabbed at. How, then, should you,  
Or I, friend, hope to 'scape the skulking crew? 15  
No! laugh, and say aloud, in tones of glee,  
'I hate the quacking tribe, and they hate me!'  
? 1825.

COLOGNE<sup>1</sup>

IN Köhln<sup>2</sup>, a town of monks and bones<sup>3</sup>,  
And pavements fang'd with murderous stones  
And rags, and hags, and hideous wenches;  
I counted two and seventy stenches,  
All well defined, and several stinks! 5  
Ye Nymphs that reign o'er sewers and sinks,  
The river Rhine, it is well known,  
Doth wash your city of Cologne;  
But tell me, Nymphs, what power divine  
Shall henceforth wash the river Rhine<sup>4</sup>? 10  
1828.

ON MY JOYFUL DEPARTURE<sup>5</sup>

FROM THE SAME CITY

As I am a Rhymer<sup>6</sup>,  
And now at least a merry one,  
Mr. Mum's Rudesheimer<sup>7</sup>  
And the church of St. Geryon  
Are the two things alone 5  
That deserve to be known  
In the body-and-soul-stinking town of Cologne.

1828.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Friendship's Offering*, 1834, as No. IV of 'Light-heartednesses in Rhyme'. It follows the lines 'On my joyful Departure', &c., and is headed 'Expectoration the Second'. First collected in 1834.

<sup>2</sup> Köhln] Coln F.O. The German Name of Cologne. F.O.

<sup>3</sup> Of the eleven thousand virgin Martyrs. F.O.

<sup>4</sup> As Necessity is the mother of Invention, and extremes beget each other, the facts above recorded may explain how this ancient town (which, alas! as sometimes happens with venison, *has been kept too long*), came to be the birthplace of the most fragrant of spirituous fluids, the EAU DE COLOGNE. F.O.

<sup>5</sup> First published in *Friendship's Offering*, 1834, with the heading 'An Expectoration, or Splenetic Extempore, on my joyful departure from the City of Cologne'. First collected in 1834.

<sup>6</sup> As I am Rhymer, F.O., P.W., 1834, 1893. The 'a' is inserted by Coleridge on a page of F.O., 1834; the correction was not adopted in P.W., 1834.

<sup>7</sup> The *apotheosis* of Rhenish wine.

THE GARDEN OF BOCCACCIO<sup>1</sup>

OF late, in one of those most weary hours,  
 When life seems emptied of all genial powers,  
 A dreary mood, which he who ne'er has known  
 May bless his happy lot, I sate alone ;  
 And, from the numbing spell to win relief,  
 Call'd on the Past for thought of glee or grief.  
 In vain ! bereft alike of grief and glee,  
 I sate and cow'r'd o'er my own vacancy !  
 And as I watch'd the dull continuous ache,  
 Which, all else slumb'ring, seem'd alone to wake ;  
 O Friend<sup>2</sup> ! long wont to notice yet conceal,  
 And soothe by silence what words cannot heal,  
 I but half saw that quiet hand of thine  
 Place on my desk this exquisite design.  
 Boccaccio's Garden and its faery,  
 The love, the joyaunce, and the gallantry !  
 An Idyll, with Boccaccio's spirit warm,  
 Framed in the silent poesy of form.

Like flocks adown a newly-bathéd steep  
 Emerging from a mist : or like a stream  
 Of music soft that not dispels the sleep,  
 But casts in happier moulds the slumberer's dream,  
 Gazed by an idle eye with silent might  
 The picture stole upon my inward sight.  
 A tremulous warmth crept gradual o'er my chest,  
 As though an infant's finger touch'd my breast.  
 And one by one (I know not whence) were brought  
 All spirits of power that most had stirr'd my thought  
 In selfless boyhood, on a new world tost  
 Of wonder, and in its own fancies lost ;  
 Or charm'd my youth, that, kindled from above,  
 Loved ere it loved, and sought a form for love ;  
 Or lent a lustre to the earnest scan  
 Of manhood, musing what and whence is man !  
 Wild strain of Sealds, that in the sea-worn caves  
 Rehearsed their war-spell to the winds and waves ;  
 Or fateful hymn of those prophetic maids,

<sup>1</sup> First published in *The Keepsake* for 1829, to accompany a plate by Stothard: included in 1829 and 1834. The variant of lines 49-56, probably a fragment of some earlier unprinted poem, is inserted in one of Coleridge's Notebooks.

<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Gillman.

That call'd on Hertha in deep forest glades ;  
 Or minstrel lay, that cheer'd the baron's feast ;  
 Or rhyme of city pomp, of monk and priest,  
 Judge, mayor, and many a guild in long array,  
 To high-church pacing on the great saint's day :  
 And many a verse which to myself I sang,  
 That woke the tear, yet stole away the pang  
 Of hopes, which in lamenting I renew'd :  
 And last, a matron now, of sober mien,  
 Yet radiant still and with no earthly sheen,  
 Whom as a faery child my childhood woo'd  
 Even in my dawn of thought—Philosophy ;  
 Though then unconscious of herself, pardie,  
 She bore no other name than Poesy ;  
 And, like a gift from heaven, in lifeful glee,  
 That had but newly left a mother's knee,  
 Prattled and play'd with bird and flower, and stone,  
 As if with elfin playfellows well known,  
 And life reveal'd to innocence alone.

Thanks, gentle artist ! now I can deservey  
 Thy fair creation with a mastering eye,  
 And all awake ! And now in fix'd gaze stand,  
 Now wander through the Eden of thy hand ;  
 Praise the green arches, on the fountain clear  
 See fragment shadows of the crossing deer ;  
 And with that serviceable nymph I stoop,  
 The crystal, from its restless pool, to scoop.  
 I see no longer ! I myself am there,  
 Sit on the ground-sward, and the banquet share.  
 'Tis I, that sweep that lute's love-echoing strings,  
 And gaze upon the maid who gazing sings :  
 Or pause and listen to the tinkling bells  
 From the high tower, and think that there she dwells.  
 With old Boccaccio's soul I stand possest,  
 And breathe an air like life, that swells my chest.  
 The brightness of the world, O thou once free,

49-56

And there was young Philosophy  
 Unconscious of herself, pardie ;  
 And now she hight poesy,  
 And like a child in playful glee  
 Prattles and plays with flower and stone,  
 As youth's fairy playfellows  
 Revealed to Innocence alone. MS. S. T. C.

And always fair, rare land of courtesy !  
 O Florence ! with the Tuscan fields and hills 75  
 And famous Arno, fed with all their rills ;  
 Thou brightest star of star-bright Italy !  
 Rich, ornate, populous,—all treasures thine,  
 The golden corn, the olive, and the vine.  
 Fair cities, gallant mansions, castles old, 80  
 And forests, where beside his leafy hold  
 The sullen boar hath heard the distant horn,  
 And whets his tusks against the gnarléd thorn ;  
 Palladian palace with its storied halls ;  
 Fountains, where Love lies listening to their falls ; 85  
 Gardens, where flings the bridge its airy span,  
 And Nature makes her happy home with man ;  
 Where many a gorgeous flower is duly fed  
 With its own rill, on its own spangled bed,  
 And wreathes the marble urn, or leans its head, 90  
 A mimic mourner, that with veil withdrawn  
 Weeps liquid gems, the presents of the dawn ;—  
 Thine all delights, and every muse is thine ;  
 And more than all, the embrace and intertwine  
 Of all with all in gay and twinkling dance ! 95  
 Mid gods of Greece and warriors of romance,  
 See ! Boccace sits, unfolding on his knees  
 The new-found roll of old Maeonides ;<sup>1</sup>  
 But from his mantle's fold, and near the heart,  
 Peers Ovid's Holy Book of Love's sweet smart !<sup>2</sup> 100

<sup>1</sup> Boccaccio claimed for himself the glory of having first introduced the works of Homer to his countrymen.

<sup>2</sup> I know few more striking or more interesting proofs of the overwhelming influence which the study of the Greek and Roman classics exercised on the judgments, feelings, and imaginations of the literati of Europe at the commencement of the restoration of literature, than the passage in the *Filocolo* of Boccaccio, where the sage instructor, Racheo, as soon as the young prince and the beautiful girl Biancofiore had learned their letters, sets them to study the Holy Book, Ovid's Art of Love. 'Incominciò Racheo a mettere il suo [ufficio] in esecuzione con intera sollecitudine. E loro, in breve tempo, insegnato a conoscer le lettere, fece leggere il santo libro d'Ovidio, [! ! S. T. C.] nel quale il sommo poeta mostra, come i santi fuochi di Venere si debbano ne' freddi euori con sollecitudine accendere.' ['Deeply interesting—but observe, p. 63, ll. 33-5 [*loc. cit.*], The *holy Book*—Ovid's Art of Love!! This is not the result of mere Immorality :—

Multum, Multum  
 Hic jacet sepultum.'

O all-enjoying and all-blending sage,  
 Long be it mine to con thy mazy page,  
 Where, half conceal'd, the eye of fancy views  
 Fauns, nymphs, and wing'd saints, all gracious to thy muse !

Still in thy garden let me watch their pranks,                                    105  
 And see in Dian's vest between the ranks  
 Of the trim vines, some maid that half believes  
 The vestal fires, of which her lover grieves,  
 With that sly satyr peeping through the leaves !

1828.

LOVE, HOPE, AND PATIENCE IN EDUCATION<sup>1</sup>

O'er wayward childhood would'st thou hold firm rule,  
 And sun thee in the light of happy faces ;  
 Love, Hope, and Patience, these must be thy graces,  
 And in thine own heart let them first keep school.  
 For as old Atlas on his broad neck places                                    5  
 Heaven's starry globe, and there sustains it ;—so  
 Do these upbear the little world below  
 Of Education,—Patience, Love, and Hope.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *The Keepsake* for 1830 : included in *P. W.*, 1834, iii. 331. An MS. version was forwarded to W. Sotheby in an unpublished letter of July 12, 1829. A second MS., dated July 1, 1829, is inscribed in an album now in the Editor's possession, which belonged to Miss Emily Trevenen (the author of *Little Derwent's Breakfast*, 1839). With regard to the variant of ll. 24–6, vide *infra*, Coleridge writes (Letter of July 12, 1829) :—"They were struck out by the author, not because he thought them bad lines in themselves (*quamvis Della Cruscam fortasse nimis redolere videantur*), but because they diverted and retarded the stream of the thought, and injured the organic unity of the composition. *Più nel uno* is Francesco de Sallez' brief and happy definition of the beautiful, and the shorter the poem the more indispensable is it that the *Più* should not overlay the *Uno*, that the unity should be evident. But to sacrifice the *gratification*, the sting of pleasure, from a fine *passage* to the *satisfaction*, the sense of *complacency* arising from the contemplation of a symmetrical *Whole* is among the last conquests achieved by men of genial powers."

108 *vestal*] *vestal Keepsake*, 1829.Title] Lines in a Lady's Album in answer to her question respecting the accomplishments most desirable in the Mistress or Governess of a Preparatory School *Letter*, July 1829 : The Poet's Answer, To a Lady's Question respecting the accomplishments most desirable in an instructress of Children *Keepsake*, 1830.2 *And*] *Yet Letter*, 1829.3 *thy*] *thy Keepsake*.4 *keep school*] *keep school Keepsake*.

Methinks, I see them group'd in seemly show,  
The straiten'd arms upraised, the palms aslope,  
And robes that touching as adown they flow,  
Distinctly blend, like snow emboss'd in snow.

10

O part them never ! If Hope prostrate lie,  
Love too will sink and die.

But Love is subtle, and doth proof derive  
From her own life that Hope is yet alive ;  
And bending o'er, with soul-transfusing eyes,  
And the soft murmurs of the mother dove,  
Woos back the fleeting spirit, and half supplies ;—  
Thus Love repays to Hope what Hope first gave to Love.

15

Yet haply there will come a weary day,  
When overtask'd at length

21

Both Love and Hope beneath the load give way.  
Then with a statue's smile, a statue's strength,  
Stands the mute sister, Patience, nothing loth,  
And both supporting does the work of both.

25

1829.

TO MISS A. T.<sup>1</sup>

VERSE, pictures, music, thoughts both grave and gay,  
Remembrances of dear-loved friends away,  
On spotless page of virgin white displayed,  
Such should thine Album be, for such art thou, sweet maid !

1829.

<sup>1</sup> First published in *Essays on His Own Times*, 1850, iii. 998 with the title 'To Miss A.T.' First collected in 1893, with the title 'In Miss E. Trevenen's Album'. 'Miss A. T.' may have been a misprint for Miss E. T., but there is no MS. authority for the title prefixed in 1893.

9-11      Methinks I see them now, the triune group,  
With straiten'd arms uprais'd, the Palms aslope  
Robe touching Robe beneath, and blending as they flow.

*Letter, July 1829.*15 doth] will *Keepsake*, 1833.

24-6      Then like a Statue with a Statue's strength,  
And with a Smile, the Sister Fay of those  
Who at meek Evening's Close  
To teach our Grief repose,  
Their freshly-gathered store of Moonbeams wreath  
On Marble Lips, a Chantrey has made breathe.

*Letter, July 1829.*

LINES<sup>1</sup>

WRITTEN IN COMMONPLACE BOOK OF MISS BARBOUR, DAUGHTER  
OF THE MINISTER OF THE U.S.A. TO ENGLAND

CHILD of my muse! in Barbour's gentle hand  
Go cross the main: thou seek'st no foreign land:  
'Tis not the clod beneath our feet we name  
Our country. Each heaven-sanctioned tie the same,  
Laws, manners, language, faith, ancestral blood,       5  
Domestic honour, awe of womanhood:—  
With kindling pride thou wilt rejoice to see  
Britain with elbow-room and doubly free!  
Go seek thy countrymen! and if one scar  
Still linger of that fratricidal war,                      10  
Look to the maid who brings thee from afar;  
Be thou the olive-leaf and she the dove,  
And say, I greet thee with a brother's love!

S. T. COLERIDGE.

GROVE, HIGHGATE, *August 1829.*

SONG, *ex improviso*<sup>2</sup>

ON HEARING A SONG IN PRAISE OF A LADY'S BEAUTY

'Tis not the lily-brow I prize,  
Nor roseate cheeks, nor sunny eyes,  
Enough of lilies and of roses!  
A thousand-fold more dear to me  
The gentle look that Love discloses,—       5  
The look that Love alone can see!

*Keepsake, 1830.*

<sup>1</sup> First published in the *New York Mirror* for Dec. 19, 1829: reprinted in *The Athenaeum*, May 3, 1884: first collected in 1893.

<sup>2</sup> First published in *The Keepsake* for 1830: included in *Essays on His Own Times*, 1850, iii. 997. First collected in *P. and D. W.*, 1877-80.

*Lines Written, &c.—Title] Lines written . . . daughter of the late Minister to England. *Athenaeum* 1884.*

*Song, &c.—Title] To a Lady *Essays, &c.* 1850.*

*5-6 The look that gentle Love discloses,—*

*That look which Love alone can see. *Essays, &c.* 1850.*

LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP OPPOSITE<sup>1</sup>

HER attachment may differ from yours in degree,  
 Provided they are both of one kind ;  
 But Friendship, how tender so ever it be,  
 Gives no accord to Love, however refined.  
 Love, that meets not with Love, its true nature revealing, 5  
 Grows ashamed of itself, and demurs :  
 If you cannot lift hers up to your state of feeling,  
 You must lower down your state to hers.

? 1830.

NOT AT HOME<sup>2</sup>

THAT Jealousy may rule a mind  
 Where Love could never be  
 I know ; but ne'er expect to find  
 Love without Jealousy.

She has a strange cast in her ee, 5  
 A swart sour-visaged maid—  
 But yet Love's own twin-sister she  
 His house-mate and his shade.

Ask for her and she'll be denied :—  
 What then ? they only mean  
 Their mistress has lain down to sleep, 10  
 And can't just then be seen.

? 1830.

5

10

PHANTOM OR FACT<sup>3</sup>

A DIALOGUE IN VERSE

AUTHOR

A LOVELY form there sate beside my bed,  
 And such a feeding calm its presence shed,

<sup>1</sup> First published as No. ii of 'Lightheartednesses in Rhyme' in *Friendship's Offering* for 1834 : included in *P. W.*, 1834.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1834.

<sup>3</sup> First published in 1834.

*Love, &c.—Title]* In Answer To A Friend's Question *F. O.*

<sup>†</sup> in degree] *in degree F. O.*

<sup>‡</sup> kind] *kind F. O.*

A tender love so pure from earthly heaven,  
 That I unnethe the fancy might control,  
 'Twas my own spirit newly come from heaven,      5  
 Wooing its gentle way into my soul!  
 But ah! the change—It had not stirr'd, and yet—  
 Alas! that change how fain would I forget!  
 That shrinking back, like one that had mistook!  
 That weary, wandering, disavowing look!      10  
 'Twas all another, feature, look, and frame,  
 And still, methought, I knew, it was the same!

## FRIEND

This riddling tale, to what does it belong?  
 Is't history? vision? or an idle song?  
 Or rather say at once, within what space      15  
 Of time this wild disastrous change took place?

## AUTHOR

Call it a moment's work (and such it seems)  
 This tale's a fragment from the life of dreams;  
 But say, that years matur'd the silent strife,  
 And 'tis a record from the dream of life.      20

? 1830.

DESIRE<sup>1</sup>

WHERE true Love burns Desire is Love's pure flame;  
 It is the reflex of our earthly frame,  
 That takes its meaning from the nobler part,  
 And but translates the language of the heart.

? 1830.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834.

1-4      Desire of pure Love born, itself the same;  
           A pulse that animates the outer frame,  
           And takes the impress of the nobler part,  
           It but repeats the Life, that of the Heart. MS. S. T. C.

CHARITY IN THOUGHT<sup>1</sup>

To praise men as good, and to take them for such,  
 Is a grace which no soul can mete out to a tittle;—  
 Of which he who has not a little too much,  
 Will by Charity's gauge surely have much too little.  
 ?1830.

HUMILITY THE MOTHER OF CHARITY<sup>2</sup>

FRAIL creatures are we all ! To be the best,  
 Is but the fewest faults to have:—  
 Look thou then to thyself, and leave the rest  
 To God, thy conscience, and the grave.

?1830.

[COELI ENARRANT]<sup>3</sup>

THE stars that wont to start, as on a chace,  
 Mid twinkling insult on Heaven's darken'd face,  
 Like a conven'd conspiracy of spies  
 Wink at each other with confiding eyes!  
 Turn from the portent—all is blank on high,  
 No constellations alphabet the sky :  
 The Heavens one large Black Letter only shew,  
 And as a child beneath its master's blow  
 Shrills out at once its task and its affright—<sup>4</sup>  
 The groaning world now learns to read aright,  
 And with its Voice of Voices cries out, O !

?1830.

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1834.

<sup>3</sup> Now first published from a MS. of uncertain date. ‘I wrote these lines in imitation of Du Bartas as translated by our Sylvester.’ S.T.C.

<sup>4</sup> Compare Leigh Hunt’s story of Boyer’s reading-lesson at Christ’s Hospital :—‘*Pupil*.—(. . . never remembering the stop at the word “Missionary”). “*Missionary* Can you see the wind?” (Master gives him a slap on the cheek.) *Pupil*.—(Raising his voice to a cry, and still forgetting to stop.) “*Indian No.*” *Autobiography of Leigh Hunt*, 1860, p. 68.

REASON<sup>1</sup>

[‘Finally, what is Reason? You have often asked me: and this is my answer’ :—]

WHENE’ER the mist, that stands ’twixt God and thee,  
Defecates to a pure transparency,  
That intercepts no light and adds no stain—  
There Reason is, and then begins her reign!

But alas!

5

— ‘tu stesso, ti fai grosso  
Col falso immaginar, sì che non vedi  
Ciò che vedresti, se l’avessi scosso.’

Dante, *Paradiso*, Canto i.

1830.

SELF-KNOWLEDGE<sup>2</sup>

—E coelo descendit γνῶθι σεαυτόν.—JUVENAL, xi. 27.

Γνῶθι σεαυτόν!—and is this the prime  
And heaven-sprung adage of the olden time!—  
Say, canst thou make thyself?—Learn first that trade;—  
Haply thou mayst know what thyself had made.  
What hast thou, Man, that thou dar’st call thine own?— 5  
What is there in thee, Man, that can be known?—  
Dark fluxion, all unfixable by thought,  
A phantom dim of past and future wrought,  
Vain sister of the worm,—life, death, soul, clod—  
Ignore thyself, and strive to know thy God!

10

1832.

<sup>1</sup> First published as the conclusion of *On the Constitution of the Church and State*, 1830, p. 227. First collected, *P. and D. W.*, 1877–80, ii. 374.

<sup>2</sup> First published in 1834.

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*Self-knowledge—Title*] The heading ‘Self-knowledge’ appears first in 1893.

FORBEARANCE<sup>1</sup>

Bear eth all things.—1 Cor. xiii. 7.

GENTLY I took that which ungently came,<sup>2</sup>  
 And without scorn forgave:—Do thou the same.  
 A wrong done to thee think a cat's-eye spark  
 Thou wouldest not see, were not thine own heart dark.      5  
 Thine own keen sense of wrong that thirsts for sin,  
 Fear that—the spark self-kindled from within,  
 Which blown upon will blind thee with its glare,  
 Or smother'd stifle thee with noisome air.  
 Clap on the extinguisher, pull up the blinds,  
 And soon the ventilated spirit finds      10  
 Its natural daylight. If a foe have kenn'd,  
 Or worse than foe, an alienated friend,  
 A rib of dry rot in thy ship's stout side,  
 Think it God's message, and in humble pride  
 With heart of oak replace it;—thine the gains—      15  
 Give him the rotten timber for his pains!

? 1832.

LOVE'S APPARITION AND EVANISHMENT<sup>3</sup>

## AN ALLEGORIC ROMANCE

LIKE a lone Arab, old and blind,  
 Some caravan had left behind,

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834.

<sup>2</sup> Compare Spenser's *Shepherd's Calendar* (Februarie):—

‘Ne ever was to Fortune foeman,  
 But gently took that ungently came.’

<sup>3</sup> Lines 1–28 were first published in *Friendship's Offering* for 1834, signed and dated ‘S. T. Coleridge, August 1833’: included in *P. W.*, 1834. Lines 29–32 were first added as ‘L'Envoy’ in 1852. J. D. Campbell in a note to this poem (1893, p. 644) prints an expanded version of these lines, which were composed on April 24, 1824, ‘as Coleridge says, “without taking my pen off the paper”’. The same lines were sent in a letter to Allsop, April 27, 1824 (*Letters, &c.*, 1836, ii. 174–5) with a single variant (line 3) ‘uneclips'd’ for ‘unperturb'd’. In the draft of April 24, four lines were added, and of these an alternative version was published in *P. W.*, 1834, with the heading ‘Desire’ (vide *ante*, p. 485). For an earlier draft in S. T. C.'s handwriting vide Appendices of this edition.

Who sits beside a ruin'd well,  
 Where the shy sand-asps bask and swell;  
 And now he hangs his agéd head aslant, 5  
 And listens for a human sound—in vain !  
 And now the aid, which Heaven alone can grant,  
 Upturns his eyeless face from Heaven to gain ;—  
 Even thus, in vacant mood, one sultry hour,  
 Resting my eye upon a drooping plant, 10  
 With brow low-bent, within my garden-bower,  
 I sate upon the couch of camomile ;  
 And—whether 'twas a transient sleep, perchance,  
 Flitted across the idle brain, the while  
 I watch'd the sickly calm with aimless scope, 15  
 In my own heart ; or that, indeed a trance,  
 Turn'd my eye inward—thee, O genial Hope,  
 Love's elder sister ! thee did I behold,  
 Drest as a bridesmaid, but all pale and cold,  
 With roseless cheek, all pale and cold and dim, 20  
 Lie lifeless at my feet !  
 And then came Love, a sylph in bridal trim,  
 And stood beside my seat ;  
 She bent, and kiss'd her sister's lips,  
 As she was wont to do ;— 25  
 Alas ! 'twas but a chilling breath  
 Woke just enough of life in death  
 To make Hope die anew.

## L'ENVOY

In vain we supplicate the Powers above ;  
 There is no resurrection for the Love  
 That, nursed in tenderest care, yet fades away  
 In the chill'd heart by gradual self-decay. 30

1833.

4 Where basking Dipsads\* hiss and swell *F. O. 1834.*

\* The Asps of the sand-desert, anciently named Dipsads.

7 And now] Anon *F. O. 1834.* 14 Flitting across the idle sense the  
while *F. O. 1834.* 27 That woke enough *F. O. 1834.*

29-32 Idly we supplicate the Powers above :

There is no resurrection for a Love  
 That uneclips'd, unshadow'd, wanes away  
 In the chill'd heart by inward self-decay.  
 Poor mimic of the Past ! the love is o'er  
 That must resolve to do what did itself of yore.

*Letter, April 27, 1824.*

TO THE YOUNG ARTIST<sup>1</sup>

KAYSER OF KASERWERTH

KAYSER! to whom, as to a second self,  
 Nature, or Nature's next-of-kin, the Elf,  
 Hight Genius, hath dispensed the happy skill  
 To cheer or soothe the parting friend's 'Alas!'  
 Turning the blank scroll to a magic glass,      5  
 That makes the absent present at our will;  
 And to the shadowing of thy pencil gives  
 Such seeming substance, that it almost lives.

Well hast thou given the thoughtful Poet's face!  
 Yet hast thou on the tablet of his mind      10  
 A more delightful portrait left behind—  
 Even thy own youthful beauty, and artless grace,  
 Thy natural gladness and eyes bright with glee!

Kayser! farewell!

Be wise! be happy! and forget not me.

1833.

5

10

MY BAPTISMAL BIRTH-DAY<sup>2</sup>

God's child in Christ adopted,—Christ my all,—  
 What that earth boasts were not lost cheaply, rather  
 Than forfeit that blest name, by which I call  
 The Holy One, the Almighty God, my Father?—  
 Father! in Christ we live, and Christ in Thee—      5  
 Eternal Thou, and everlasting we.  
 The heir of heaven, henceforth I fear not death:  
 In Christ I live! in Christ I draw the breath

5

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. The original of Kayser's portrait of S. T. C., a pencil-sketch, is in the possession of the Editor. In 1852 Kaserwerth is printed Kayserwerth. The modern spelling is Kaiserswerth.

<sup>2</sup> First published in *Friendship's Offering* for 1834: included in *P. W.*, 1834. Emerson heard Coleridge repeat an earlier version of these lines on Aug. 5, 1833.

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*My Baptismal Birth-day—Title]* Lines composed on a sick-bed, under severe bodily suffering, on my spiritual birthday, October 28th. *F. O.*

<sup>1</sup> Born unto God in Christ—in Christ, my All! *F. O.*      <sup>3</sup> *I]* we *F. O.*

<sup>4</sup> my] our *F. O.*      <sup>7</sup> fear] dread *F. O.*

Of the true life!—Let then earth, sea, and sky  
 Make war against me! On my heart I show  
 Their mighty master's seal. In vain they try  
 To end my life, that can but end its woe.—  
 Is that a death-bed where a Christian lies?—  
 Yes! but not his—'tis Death itself there dies.

10

1833.

EPITAPH<sup>1</sup>

STOP, Christian passer-by!—Stop, child of God,  
 And read with gentle breast. Beneath this sod

<sup>1</sup> First published in 1834. Six MS. versions are extant:—(a) in a letter to Mrs. Aders of 1833 (*Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, ii. 770); (b) in a letter to J. G. Lockhart; (c) in a letter to J. H. Green of October 29, 1833: (d e) in a copy of Grew's *Cosmologia Sacra*, annotated by Coleridge in 1833; (f) in a copy of the *Todtentanz*, which belonged to Thomas Poole.

9-10

Let Sea, and Earth and Sky

Wage war against me! On my front I show F. O.

ii they] *they F. O.*    12 that] *who F. O.*    14 his...there] *his...there F. O.*

Title or Heading] (a) 'Epitaph on a Poet little known, yet better known by the Initials of his name than by the Name Itself.' S. T. C. *Letter to Mrs. Aders*: (b) 'Epitaph on a Writer better known by the Initials of his Name than by the name itself. Suppose an upright tombstone.' S. T. C. *Letter to J. G. Lockhart*: (c) 'On an author not wholly unknown; but better known by the initials of his name than by the name itself, which he partly Graecized, *Hic jacet qui stetit, restat, resurget*—on a Tombstone.' *Letter to J. H. Green*: (d) 'Epitaph in Hornsey Churchyard. *Hic jacet S. T. C.*' Grew (1): (e) 'Etesi's (*sic*) Epitaph,' (and below (e)) 'Inscription on the Tombstone of one not unknown; yet more commonly known by the Initials of his Name than by the Name itself.' Grew (2): (f) 'Esteese's *αυτοεπιγραφιον*.' *Note in Poole's Todtentanz*.

From the letter to Mrs. Aders it appears that Coleridge did not contemplate the epitaph being inscribed on his tombstone, but that he intended it to be printed 'in letters of a distinctly visible and legible size' on the outline of a tomb-stone to be engraved as a vignette to be published in a magazine, or to illustrate the last page of his 'Miscellaneous Poems' in the second volume of his *Poetical Works*. It would seem that the artist, Miss Denman, had included in her sketch of the vignette the figure of a Muse, and to this Coleridge objects:—'A rude old yew-tree, or a mountain ash, with a grave or two, or any other characteristic of a village church-yard,—such a hint of a landscape was all I meant; but if any figure rather that of an elderly man, thoughtful with quiet tears upon his cheek.' *Letters of S. T. C.*, 1895, ii. 770.

For the versions inscribed in Grew's *Cosmologia Sacra*, and in Poole's copy of the *Todtentanz*, vide Appendices of this work.

2 breast] heart MS. *Letters to Mrs. Aders, J. G. Lockhart, J. H. Green*.

A poet lies, or that which once seem'd he.  
O, lift one thought in prayer for S. T. C. ;  
That he who many a year with toil of breath        5  
Found death in life, may here find life in death !  
Mercy for praise—to be forgiven for fame<sup>1</sup>  
He ask'd, and hoped, through Christ. Do thou the same !

9th November, 1833.

<sup>1</sup> N.B. 'for' in the sense of 'instead of'. ἔστη κεῖται ἀναστῆσει—stetit : restat : resurget. ΕΣΤΗΣΕ. Letter to J. G. Lockhart, 1833.

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3 seem'd he] was he MS. Letter to J. H. Green.        5 toil of] toilsome  
MS. Letter to Mrs. Aders.        7 to be forgiven] to be forgiven MS. Letters to  
Mrs. Aders and J. H. Green.







